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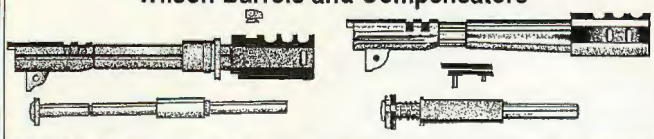

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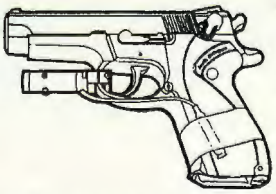

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COMMAND GUIDANCE

Bullet Balloting

by Robert K. Brown

I am recommending five individuals, all running for the NRA Board of Directors, who were nominated by petition, not by the nominating committee for reasons known only to members of said committee. I have my own theory as to why these highly qualified present board members, all of whom are strong supporters of the Second Amendment, were not renominated but will not get into that at this time. The major point is they are independent thinkers who are not about to be lead around by the nose by any one individual or faction.

They are: Lt. Col. Rex Applegate, long known to SOF readers for his training of police and military personnel in combat shooting and riot control; Leo Lujan, former Air Force officer and director of junior development for the U.S. Shooting Team; James Porter, responsible for drafting virtually all NRA supported gun rights legislation in Alabama; Lee Purcell, film and TV actress who is a staunch supporter of the right to keep and bear arms; Bill Steg'Kemper, founding member of NRA's 2nd Amendment Task Force and criminal investigator for the Florida State Attorney and Governor.

I feel so strongly about electing these individuals, that for the first time I am endorsing "bullet balloting" which means if you vote only for the five individuals listed above, and no one else, your vote will have the weight of five votes. There are many competent and capable individuals recommended by the nominating committee — and many who are not. If you wish to discuss this further, and I'm not in Bosnia, give me a call at: 303-449-3750.

While we're at it, if you are not a member of the NRA, or wish to upgrade your membership, call them at 800-NRA-3888. This is a general election year and we need all the horsepower we can get.

On an equally important issue, we have to break ranks with the ILA on the Counterterrorism/Habeas Corpus Reform Bill — a dreadful piece of legislation that just won't go away. ILA's official position, as we go to press, is a "yellow light," whatever that means. We agree with GOA and the ACLU (talk about strange bedfellows!) that legislation of this nature will not do anything but increase the power of the federal government at the expense of eroding our Constitutional rights. If this bill hasn't been voted on by the time you read this, call your congressman and tell him to vote against it!

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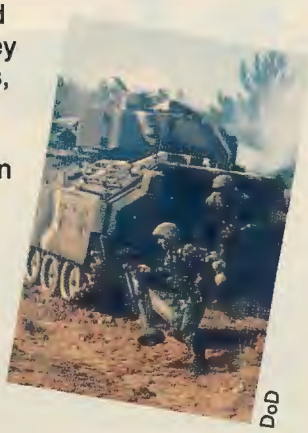
U.S. mechanized infantry in Bradley Fighting Vehicles, backed by their "big brothers" — M-1 Abrams main battle tanks — patrol the treacherous countryside of Bosnia as part of an unprecedented NATO operation to enforce a shaky peace in the Balkans.



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MEDIA FOLLIES

The *Washington Post* left its editorial bias flying in the winter wind with a blatant and baseless smear of *The Resister* as being a white supremacist publication. The only evidence cited to support the inflammatory aspersion was that *The Resister* is "ultraconservative" and opposes the socialist agendas of President Clinton and the United Nations. The *Post*'s reckless smear suggests that an individual or organization may be tarred and feathered as a racist merely for disagreeing with journalism's mainstream herd.

In an 8 December story, the *Post* reported allegations by Haiti's government that U.S. Army Special Forces, troops helped some former members of Haiti's military and police forces opposed to President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's gun confiscation program, hide weapons or flee the country. (The *Post* was scooped on that story 11 months earlier by *The Resister*.)

In the *Post*'s initial story — for which *The Resister*'s staff anonymity was protected by having *SOF* telefax questions and answers between the two — the *Post* characterized *The Resister* as "an ultraconservative American journal." But the next day, in its front-page story about the arrest of three drunken 82nd Airborne privates for the racially-motivated murder of a black couple in Fayetteville, North Carolina, the *Post* went out of its way to smear the politically incorrect underground magazine.

The *Post*'s 9 December story included a completely unsubstantiated two-para graph departure implying that the murder suspects were, if not connected directly to *The Resister*, at least inspired by it in their senseless and random brutality.

"The suspects appeared to be part of a right-wing, white supremacist fringe that has been active at Fort Bragg," the paper reported. "A group calling itself the 'Special Forces Underground' publishes a clandestine newsletter at Fort Bragg called *The Resister*, which has railed against U.S. policy toward Haiti and the United Nations ... A policy statement published recently said the group ... opposes, among other things, 'liberalism, altruism, internationalism, tribalism, democracy, and 'idealogies of all tyrannies.' "

In a sin of omission, one of the "among other things" *The Resister* policy opposes — conveniently unmentioned by the *Post* — is racism. The *Post* quotes were selectively edited to advance the implication of racist editorial advocacy by *The Resister*, and absolutely no context was provided the reader. *Washington Post* reporter Dana Priest defended inclusion of *The*

courtesy FN Manufacturing, Inc.

The Army announced on 1 December that FN's M240E4 is the winner in a shootoff with the M60E4 and is slated to become the Army's standard medium machine gun. A variant of FN's MAG-58 that is in service with more than 70 countries, the M240 series had earlier been selected by the Marines and Rangers for infantry use as the M240G, and has given good service in the U.S. on choppers and vehicles. The Army is expected to negotiate contracts for U.S. production and procurement next year. This is good news for American grunts — even if it is 25 years late.

Todd Davis

Jumpmasters Mike Pridgen and Alan Lo of Mile-Hi Skydiving Center (phone: 303-702-9911) watch *SOF* Assistant Editor Marty Kufus after a jump at 12,000 feet over Colorado's front range. Kufus' last jump was in 1985 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, when serving as a Russian linguist in the MI company, 5th SFGA.

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with Col. Rex Applegate

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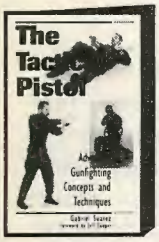

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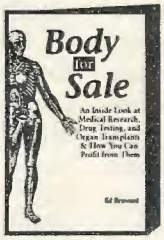

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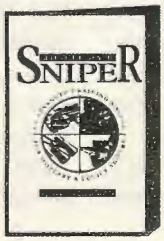

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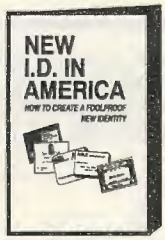

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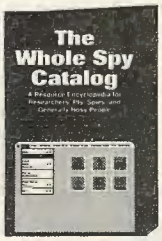

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Resister in the story about racially motivated murders, citing *The Resister*'s description of Haiti as a "Third World Sewer," and said *The Resister*'s use of "tribalism" is "a code-word for racism."

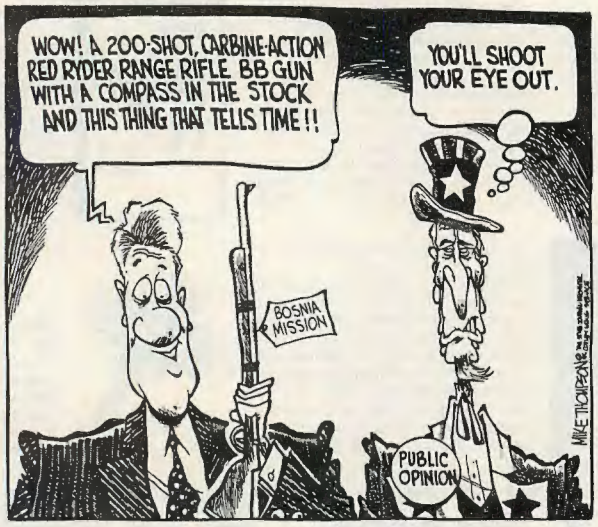
Tribalism, since the *Post* reporters evidently slept through history class, was the social order in ancient Rome before they came up with the progressive idea of a republic: Tribalism is what's now tearing apart the Balkans. Although tribalism may still be the social cornerstone in some Third World areas, tribalism is not a code-word for anything but what it is — an irrational code of behavior based on a Hatfields-and-McCoys perspective of those other than yourself. And as such *The Resister* (and *SOF*) finds it deplorable, whether it's Serb vs. Croat, Irish Catholic vs. Irish Protestant, African Bantu vs. African Bushman, American Hispanic vs. American black ... or whatever ... even *Post* vs. *Resister*.

As for the *Post*'s seizing upon *The Resister*'s description of Haiti as a "Third World Sewer" as an indication of their editorial racism ... in a conversation a few days earlier with *SOF*'s National Affairs Editor James L. Pate, Priest's fellow *Post* reporter, Doug Farah, described Haiti in remarkably frank terms as "a shitty little place ... a violent culture [in which people are] living in very close quarters in extreme poverty."

In any race, tribe, or culture, that sounds like a Third World sewer to us. —*JLP*

PGK INTERVIEWED IN MG NEWS

SOF's Technical Editor Peter G. Kokalis was featured on the December, 1995 cover of *Machine Gun News* and in an in-depth 11-page interview by *MGN*'s Technical Editor Dan Shea. Peter's legion fans seldom have a chance to see him up-close and personal in *SOF* since he's writing about guns not himself. But the candid and insightful *MGN* interview can correct that. To those Kokalistas who don't subscribe to the *Machine Gun News*, single copies of the December, 1995 issue may be ordered @ $5 postpaid from: Machine Gun News, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 459, Lake Hamilton, AR 71951-0459.



BOOKS FOR BOSNIA

You loyal readers are already responding to the notice in last month's *Bulletin Board*, as paperback books have been rolling in to the *SOF* offices. As you read this, they're already winging their way to our American troops deployed in Bosnia. It's a rough winter there, folks, and it's a frustrating mission: Packages from home and books to read are a real positive morale factor. Why not kill two birds with one stone and make that box from home *books*? *SOF* will get them there; all you have to do is get them to *SOF*. A shopping bag full — or a truckload; we can handle whatever you have. Mail 'em to Books For The Troops c/o *SOF*, 5735 E. Arapahoe, Boulder, CO 80303.

TENTS, BOATS, BABY BOTTLES, PORT-AU-PRINCE POTTIES

In what DoD surplus managers call "the best deal from Cuba since cigars," thousands of items such as garbage trucks, baby bottles, boats, portable toilets, pick-ups, cots and blankets are being liquidated as the U.S. military winds down its refugee city at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. It cost an estimated $1 million a day to feed, clothe and care for some 40,000 Haitian and Cuban boat people at the U.S. Navy base there. It is hoped that bids for the surplus will help offset some of the cost of the humanitarian operation.

NO BRIGHT IDEA

Secretary of Defense William Perry has decided that lasers "specifically designed" to cause permanent blindness will not be part of America's military arsenal. Human rights groups express fear that laser systems used for targeting and detection are fine in that they increase accuracy on military targets, thus helping to minimize collateral damage. However, the potential exists for collateral damage from the laser systems themselves.

A *GOOD* IDEA

Notes Nat Ward, the normalization of relations with Vietnam makes it important that now — more than ever — concerned Americans must demand a full accounting of our missing servicemen ... It must not be forgotten that 2,213 still remain behind." A former recon platoon leader and now an attorney, Ward is founder of the POW Freedom Foundation, a professional and totally non-profit organization that operates solely with volunteers and without any paid staff. They operate public awareness programs and also go to Vietnam and beat the bushes. They work for free, but can always use help with expenses. Your tax-deductible contribution can be sent to: POW Freedom Foundation, Box 26057, San Diego, CA 92196; phone: 619-566-5234; fax: 619-558-8965.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"I guess he didn't graduate" (a senior diplomat, referring to a North Korean dressed in a frogman's suit, who was shot dead on the border with South Korea). Observers say North Korea's spy schools test their students with field trips to the South.

New, Eye-Opening, Documented FREE REPORT Proves ...

Jerry Peterson Reveals Never-Before-Seen "Killing" Techniques

Creator of Official U.S. Navy SEAL Combat System Releases Brutal New Gun & Knife Sections Of His Instructor Qualification Fighting Series

Can you disarm a man holding a knife to your throat? What if a car-jacker sticks a gun through your window — and your wife, girlfriend, or child is sitting beside you?

In an often brutal yet professionally direct approach, Jerry Peterson's new video series shows you how to destroy these attackers, while taking you to the ultimate level of fighting.

The culmination of a 2-year transformation from actual SCARS military archive techniques, his **Instructor Qualification Series** offers you the opportunity to learn what until now was exclusively taught to military Special Operations forces (SEALS, Rangers, Green Beréts, etc.).

It's been called "the most brutally effective fighting system ever seen."

Before explaining more about this system, here's how Jerry Peterson, the creator of this system, became the first — and only — civilian ever to standardize, license and teach a hand-to-weapon fighting system to the United States military.

In 1989, Naval Special Warfare Command (NSWC), the group which controls all SEAL activity, was looking for ways to standardize hand-to-weapon combat techniques. After an exhaustive review, they had **rejected every single martial art form in the world.**

They found each completely unworkable in combat-oriented fighting situations where SEALS were in full gear, carrying 100# packs, and often knee-deep in water.

Amazing Scientific System

Then a SEAL NSWC officer (with black belts in 3 martial arts) saw Jerry Peterson's *scientific* fighting system. What he stumbled on wasn't martial arts. In fact it was unlike anything he'd ever seen before.

The SEAL officer watched in disbelief as a class of inexperienced students threw real punches for virtually 1 full hour, **never repeating the same sequences.** In one session he witnessed more fighting than most martial arts students see in a year.

Later, two top brass at NSWC saw the officer demonstrating moves he'd learned. But intrigue turned to doubt when they learned the originator was an ex-Army enlisted man.

Still they met with Jerry, as much out of admiration for his Vietnam record as anything (he spent 15 months as lead point for Charlie Company, the 173rd Airborne — one of the most decorated units of the war). As Vietnam vets, the SEAL officers figured Jerry at least would understand their needs.

Easily Defeats Decorated SEAL

But they were totally unprepared for what happened. To prove his system, Jerry Peterson and a highly-decorated SEAL Officer (and at 240, 100 pounds heavier than Jerry) went toe-to-toe — but at half speed. To the Officer's amazement he was **instantly** disabled and dropped to his knees.

Only then did he realize — had he not been talked out of going full speed by others who knew the awesome power of Jerry Peterson's system, his false confidence in his martial arts training and in his sheer size advantage would have left him with an arm broken as easily as a match stick!

In 5 short minutes these SEAL officers — men who had seen everything in the way of brutal fighting, and who had virtually unlimited budgets to develop the SEALS into the world's best — were blown away by Jerry Peterson's *Autokinematic™* fighting system.

Officially Required SEAL Training

Following a pilot program at Command headquarters all SEALS began receiving this training. Still, hardheaded, cocky, non-believing SEALS, many with extensive martial arts backgrounds, constantly tested Jerry:

❑ SEALS are the most proficient combat swimmers in the world. Yet 40-year-old Jerry (who wasn't a particularly good swimmer) "drowned" SEAL after SEAL in training. His scientific principles apply on any terrain.

❑ SEALS are trained to run 20 miles in soft sand. But Jerry (who really wasn't in great shape) had them gasping just 5 minutes into his first workouts while he participated effortlessly. He used breathing techniques others had never seen (techniques he can teach you in minutes).

❑ In Europe Jerry challenged a deployed SEAL platoon to pin him against a wall. All thought it a joke. Yet he escaped — from the grasp of 14 of the most proficient fighting men in the world (then showed it was no trick — simply physics, and easily learned).

Today all SEALS use these scientific techniques and many more. Since 1989, Navy SEALS go through a minimum of 40 and up to 600 rigorous hours of Jerry Peterson's training prior to deployment (often in intense, 24-hour a day sessions).

Top Government Officials Amazed

His system was demonstrated to Navy Admirals, a 4-Star General, and Congressional leaders — as well as the Secretary of the Navy and the U.S. Secretary of Defense!

Jerry was even called in prior to Desert Storm to brief the military on using *Neural Offensive Linguistics™* (a cornerstone of his system, it defines a mind set which eliminates all defensive thinking, allowing anyone, even you, to make instantaneously correct decisions in the midst of any hostile environment).

Devastating Power Gives You An Unfair Advantage

In his *HCS* video course Jerry Peterson introduced you to his revolutionary system.

Now, with the publication of ***Jerry Peterson's SCAR-HCS Hand-To-Weapon*** fighting system, Jerry leads you into the never-before-seen world of brutal, no-holds-barred gun, knife and club fighting — material you've **never** seen (unless you were in elite Special Operation forces).

You'll learn the same hand-to-weapon techniques, the same mental approaches, the same 'kill' sets Jerry developed for over 200 SEAL SCARS instructors. (These SCARS instructors now teach this system to all branches of the military Spec Op forces — Army, Navy and Air Force).

You'll know how to defeat, seriously disable and, when necessary, kill anyone threatening your life or the life of a loved one or friend!

Guaranteed To Work In Your Most Nightmarish Hostile Situation

Everything in his system was proven in the most intense war lab of the past 30 years — Vietnam!

Official SEAL SCARS-CFC Creator Jerry Peterson

But this isn't a course to impress friends at your Karate studio. The Instructor Qualification Series is Jerry Peterson's complete professional fighting system.

And professional fighting has but one objective: to defeat an attacker incredibly fast. In 29 years Jerry's longest fight lasted but 5 seconds!

This system is only for those who need a powerful yet amazingly simple system (simple because it's based on quickly-mastered scientific principles **not** a difficult art form) to protect them in life-threatening situations.

No Navy SEAL has ever lost in hand-to-hand combat when correctly applying Jerry's system! And they never will (nor will you) because ... his system is undefeatable!

This Totally Integrated System Enables You To Destroy Any Attacker — With Absolutely No Fear Or Hesitation!

Cheap imitators advertise fighter after fighter after fighter — a hodgepodge of unrelated, nonscientific moves. Now they even lie, hoping to con you into believing SEALS would lose to these guys. But they know. No one beats a Peterson-trained SEAL.

These 'wanna-bes' teach one move if an attacker swings a fist at you, another if he's got a knife.

But Jerry Peterson's scientific system teaches you why you MUST use the exact same techniques — **with a weapon or without!** What everyone else teaches is wrong. Just ask the SEALS!

The imitators claim they've trained Navy SEALS. But Jerry Peterson is the sole creator of the official hand-to-hand and hand-to-weapon combat fighting system used by the SEALS today.

He's the only civilian with a Naval Special Warfare course number (*SCARS-CFC#* K-431-0096) plus a new $2.5 million military facility predicated solely on his SCARS training.

The Navy SEAL 'wanna-be' trainers? They've got nothing — no official status, no course number.

Free Special Report Reveals GUN And KNIFE Fighting Secrets

Jerry Peterson's system is brutal. It has to be. Yet it's surprisingly easy to learn. It requires NO athletic ability, NO speed, NO conditioning.

And because his videos offer an unprecedented 3 camera angles (including a new overhead shot), you can learn this scientific system in just days; specific techniques often in just minutes.

Jerry has created a **Free special report** revealing the amazing details about his *scientific* weapons fighting system — the system which has made the Navy SEALS an undefeatable fighting force.

It's easy to get your free copy. Just **call**

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24-hours for a Free recorded message to get your **Free report.** International, call 602-921-8533.

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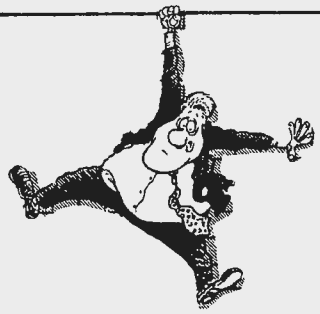
SLICK WILLIE WATCH



"PRIVILEGE" CHARACTERS?

Here's an interesting quote from that liberal bastion, *The New York Times*, by columnist William Safire, commenting on current White House machinations to avoid/impede investigators trying to delve into the suspicious death of Vincent Foster and other Whitewater Scandal matters: *A mysterious death; witnesses unbelievably forgetful about calls made in its aftermath; conflicts in sworn testimony about concealment of the dead man's files; now claims to a privilege of secrecy. Something is under that Whitewater rock.*

Throughout the various investigations into Whitewater and related matters swirling about the President since his election, the White House demeanor has been of bemused, polite, even sanctimonious, cooperation. Recent developments would make it appear this rush to seemingly cooperate might have been based on some sort of assurance that either an internal braking mechanism on the investigation, or an adequate coverup gave the White House reason to believe they were safely above the coming tide.The Clinton's initial bored "of course, we'd *love* to help you, but there's just nothing to investigate" official line has recently given way to a new "golly, we'd sure love to help you, but we just can't because we must occupy the moral high ground and defend the principle of lawyer-client privilege" [heh, heh] demeanor. Abandoning the previous pretense of cooperating with Whitewater investigators, Slick Willie explained, "Given that this will set a big precedent, I don't believe the president should say he's not entitled to have complete confidence in his own lawyer."

The "his own lawyer" Clinton was referring to were the three privately-hired lawyers to whom four Clinton staffers went on 5 November 1993, with improperly obtained warnings about criminal references involving the president and Mrs. Clinton. At least one of the White House aides, William Kennedy III, made extensive notes of the 5 November meeting. As the four staffers were on the public payroll, their allegiance — and notes — should be public. At least that's what Watergate investigators successfully argued at the time they were squeezing an uncomfortable shoe on Nixon's foot.

Now, like someone sitting with a handful of deuces and treys, the Clintons appear to be upping the ante in an attempt to get their opponents to fold without calling: When their "client-lawyer privilege" ploy didn't play well in Peoria, they switched to a full-blown "executive privilege" stratagem, as Nixon tried as a defense during the Watergate investigations. It didn't work then, and Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.), chairman of the Whitewater committee, says it won't work now. It looks like this facet of the Whitewater Scandal is headed for the supreme court, and on that court's decision may pivot the effectiveness of the Whitewater investigators.

There are different routes of speculation on why the Clintons are risking the obvious Watergate implications by coming out of the closet with their obfuscation of Whitewater investigators, but it's obvious that, as Safire concluded, "Something is under that Whitewater rock."

O'LEARY'S SACRED COW

No other Clinton cabinet member, not even the secretary of state, has spent as much time overseas as Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary.

But what really rankles the wallet is not the *time* spent exploring at taxpayers expense, but her wretched excess of traveling style. On a $400,000+ trip to Pakistan, for instance, O'Leary went in a charter-type jet featuring swiveling leather seats and stand-up bar (justified because she and her entourage needed "work space"). Uh-huh. She's used the same jet on three such junkets. On a trip to South Africa, O'Leary took along 51 employees plus 68 assorted business executives and academics — not counting the bevy of photographers and video crews. O'Leary justifies including her fellow energy execs (she came to us from a utility company in Minnesota) because she claims these junkets will generate billion-dollar deals. Well, maybe: It takes million-dollar deals with the transportation industry just to get O'Leary and her entourage there and back.

Of her 16 (thus far) overseas junkets, some other bell-ringers on the wretched excessometer include a trip to China that cost the taxpayers $845,000 and one to India that set us back $720,000.

The media has wondered what O'Leary was all about ever since she hired a public relations consultant (@ $50,000 taxpayer dollars) to track how she was covered by the press. She maintains a staff of 51 public affairs people at her Washington office, plus another 74 PR wonks in other locations — and a staff of 14 to handle her invitations, travel arrangements and meetings.

Ms. O'Leary is quoted as claiming, "I am without personal ego." As the *Rocky Mountain News* noted, if that is so then she would not feel too bad if she found herself out of a job.

Even *before* next year's elections.

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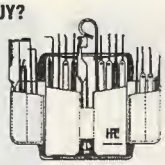

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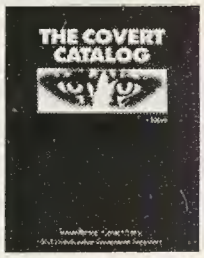

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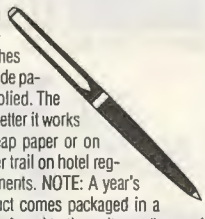

Reverse engineered from a Russian formula by our engineers this "magic" ink vanishes completely from bank note grade paper several hours after it is applied. The higher the grade of paper the better it works (not for use on recycled, cheap paper or on cardboard). Don't leave a paper trail on hotel registers or other tracking documents. NOTE: A year's supply of this amazing product comes packaged in a designer pen; in past ads we referred to the unit as a "copy of the famous MontBlanc pen." We regret any inference that this product has any connection to MontBlanc. It does not and we apologize to MontBlanc for any confusion. The product works great, the pen is simply a designer type fountain pen that has absolutely no connection to MountBlanc. $69.95.

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You've seen Al on Nightline, NBC, CBS Morning Show, Oprah ("most dangerous man in America") featured in *Playboy*, etc.

9 Ways to locate your subject's bank accounts, 7 ways to really develop anyone's unlisted phone number, obtain "unavailable" telephone records, find anyone's employer/salary, get "forbidden" credit card reports, break post boxes, medical records, how to really *use* a credit report and more!

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Actual audio recordings of Al teaching a group of high level investigators and Federal agents how to steal (uh, maybe borrow is a better term, one Al's parole officer might approve of) vital information over the phone. This amazing, one of a kind seminar cost each participant several THOUSAND DOLLARS! And they loved it...

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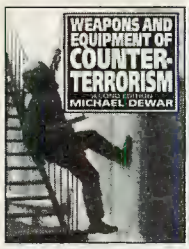

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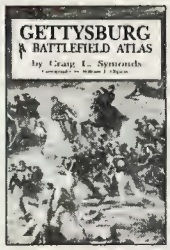

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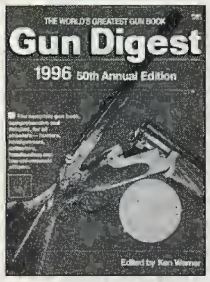

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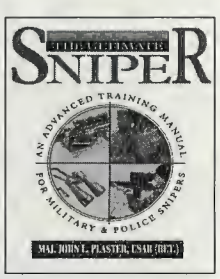

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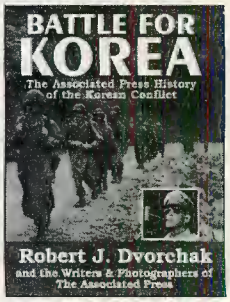

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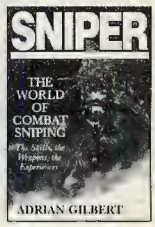

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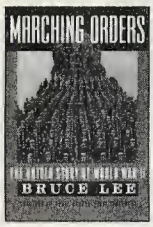

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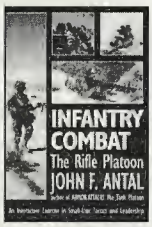
1396 $27.50



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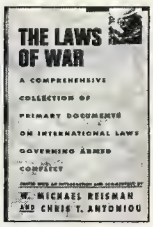
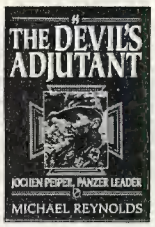


0414 $13.00



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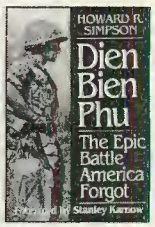

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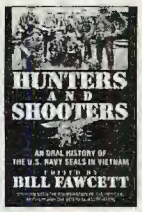

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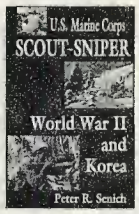

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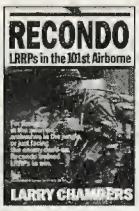

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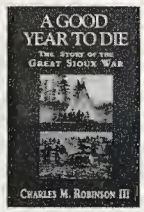

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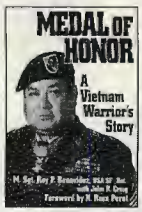

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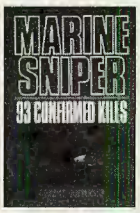

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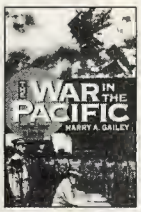

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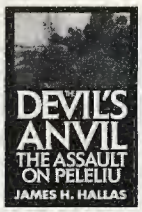
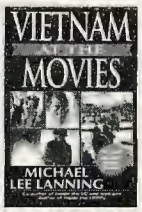


0265 $27.50



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5165 $29.50

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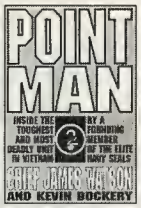

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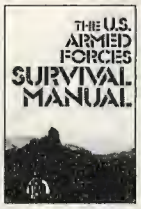

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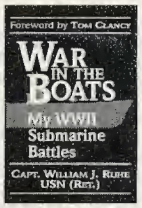

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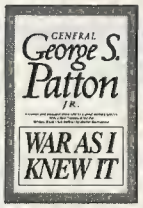

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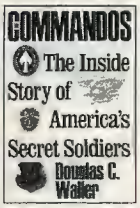

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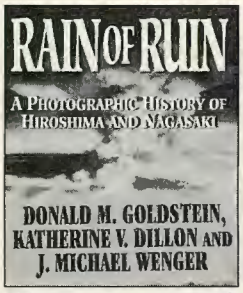

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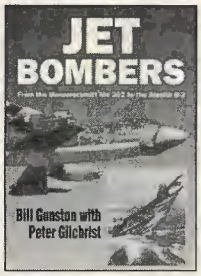

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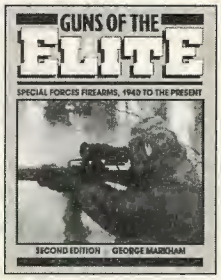

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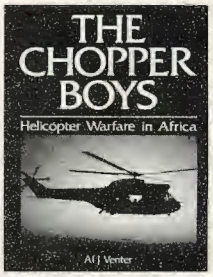

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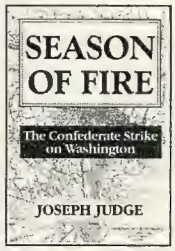

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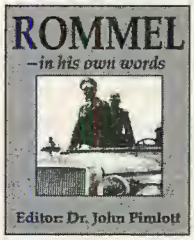

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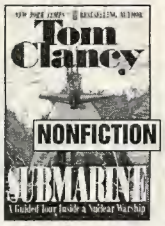
3434 $24.95



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0869 $27.95

1891 $23.00

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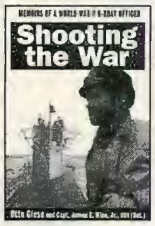

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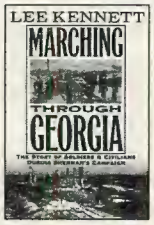

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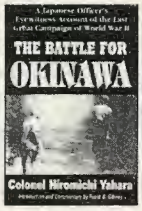

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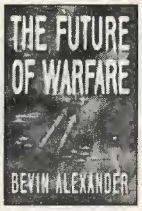

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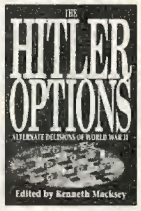

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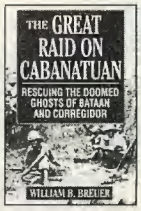

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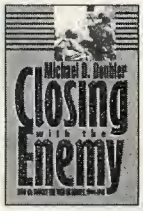

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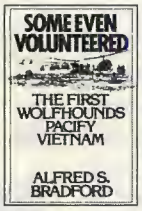

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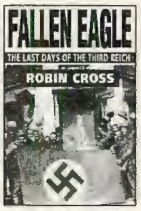

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FLAK

BAD NEWS OVER BOSNIA

We can now expect a soon-to-be-released rerun of the Vietnam War now that our fearless, smoke-but-don't-inhale president has ordered 20,000 of our young men and women to Bosnia. Perhaps Slick Willie could at least answer the following questions pertaining to this upcoming, needless apocalypse.

Will we have a more accurate body count and accounting of our MIAs? Can our troops really determine who is the enemy (Bosnians and Serbs look alike)? When we ever do depart — abandoning hundreds of millions of dollars worth of equipment and materiel — will there be dramatic photos of overloaded U.S. helicopters plucking, off a rooftop, immigrants seeking a home in America?

I think we taxpayers, paying for this dimwitted disaster-to-be, deserve *some* answers.

W.M. Lawson
Costa Mesa, Calif.

I have been an avid reader of *SOF* for a year and just had to write.

Why are we sending troops to Bosnia if we are not protecting the United States from a foreign enemy? If it's a "peacekeeping" mission, then why are we sending combat units?

My father is in the Army, and I don't want to see him dying over there. American troops are not being seen by the Serbs as neutral, but as allies of their enemies, the Croats and Muslims. There is nothing clear about what we are doing there.

I want to be a soldier. I am 12 years old now. I love my country and want to defend the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

Sean S. Tucker
Deltona, Fla.

QUESTIONS — AND ANSWERS

I love your magazine and read every issue from cover to cover. So how come I had to find out about the [4 Nov. '95] assassination of the prime minister of Israel through other media, but nothing said in your World Sitrep?

Your World Sitrep didn't even let on about the internal conflict in Israel or the existence of radical [Jewish] groups, yet it covers problems in Cambodia, Iraq, South Africa, Croatia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, and even the good old USA — but not Israel. Why?

How about a nice, big article about Israel killing POWs from its 1967 war? How about a great, big cover story on all the U.S. taxpayers' dollars squandered on that little nation?

Brian A. Glennon
South Boston, Mass.

Brian, you'd probably agree SOF *beats the pants off the mainstream media with in-depth, insightful coverage of various military, security and law-enforcement issues. But it's a* monthly *magazine; we prepare each issue weeks before you get it. (February's World Sitrep notes PM Rabin's murder.) As to future coverage of Israel, stay tuned for hard-hitting — but* objective — *reports.*

ADL A *FRIEND* OF THE MILITIAS?

In an article about the reported racism present at the annual Good O' Boy Roundup in Tennessee ["Feds, Fun & Fascists," Dec. '95 *SOF*], James Pate writes that the Anti-Defamation League "which had remained curiously silent during the initial cacophony of outrage, came to the defense of federal law enforcement agents, and used the opportunity to paint militia groups — and by extension, anyone who advocates the right of free association by an armed citizenry — as themselves racist."

In reality, ADL sharply condemned the event in a July 17 press release, (within a week after news of the controversy broke) saying: "ADL is appalled that any agent of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, or any other police officers, would participate in a 'whites only' gathering of law enforcement personnel. Racist activity ... [in law enforcement] should not be tolerated. We are gratified that the BATF is conducting an investigation of this matter. ..."

The WORLDS *FIRST* LIMITED EDITION AK-47

Vietnam War Trophy Edition . . . Fires Semi-Automatic -- Legal for Veterans and Collectors.

Capacity: 30-round mag.
Caliber: Fires 7.62 x 39
Edition Limit: Only 1,500
Overall Length: 34.7"
Weight: 7-3/4 lbs.
Maker: Fegyver-és Gálkészülékgyár of Budapest, Hungary

The AK-47 was favored in Vietnam by Green Berets, SEALs, Marine Recon, and other Special Ops units.

"I had a lot of respect for the AK-47. It was light, hard-hitting, and handy to carry in the bush."

John "Trapper" Setelin
US Army, 1st Cavalry Div., Ia Drang Valley, 1965

In the elite field of military arms collecting, one of the most famous firearms of all is the AK-47, also known as the "Kalashnikov", the name of its Soviet inventor.

America's first experience with the AK-47 was over 30 years ago in the small, distant land of Vietnam. Captured examples were the most prized war trophy a Vietnam Veteran or arms collector could own.

Now, The American Historical Foundation is proud to announce the world's *first* limited edition Kalashnikov AK-47, entitled the "Vietnam War Trophy Edition AK-47".

Legal To Own

The good news for the veteran and collector is anyone who can own a standard hunting rifle can still legally own one (call the Foundation and receive written verification, if you wish.) This is because it is made in Hungary and fires only in the *semi-automatic* mode.

Our fight against Communism in Vietnam and the subsequent lifting of the Iron Curtain made possible this historically significant project. For the finest Kalashnikov AK-47s are made in Budapest, Hungary, by the firm of Fegyver-és Gálkészülékgyár.

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Each is a *genuine, firing* Kalashnikov, commissioned by the Foundation with these distinctive features:

- Elaborate, artistic etchings, precisely overlaid with rich, 24-Karat Gold plating, portray oriental designs and historical inscriptions which pay tribute to our warfare in Southeast Asia and proclaim the name of the inventor.
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The Vietnam War Trophy Edition AK-47 is available exclusively through The American Historical Foundation. A small deposit is all that is needed to reserve, and a convenient monthly payment plan is available. To reserve, call our Member Relations Staff, toll free at 1-800-368-8080, **24 hours a day, seven days a week.** If you do not have a Federal Firearms License, our Member Relations Staff will help coordinate delivery with you through your local firearms dealer after we have received your reservation. If you have an FFL, send us a signed copy and your rifle will be delivered directly to you. *Satisfaction is guaranteed or you may return your rifle within 30 days for a full refund.* With your reservation, you will be made a Member of our Firearms Collector Club.

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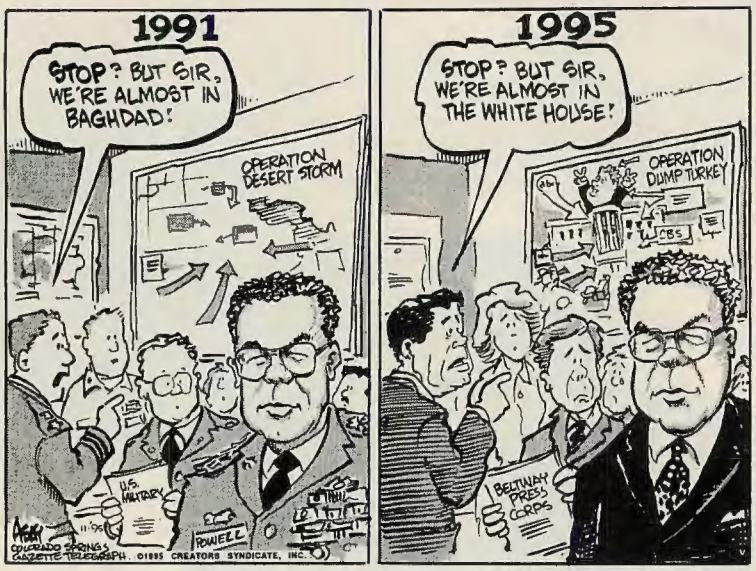
Furthermore, the *SOF* article included a quote from militia member Jeff Randall, accusing ADL of "unfairly painting all militia groups with a broad brush of racism to foment fear as a fundraising tool. ..."

In fact, ADL took great precautions *not* to make generalizations of this sort [in its Oct. '94 report] and to distinguish those militias with racist or anti-Semitic strains from the more benign groups. ... Additionally, in introducing the new report, in April 1995, ADL said it "confirms that *some* militia propaganda continues to exhibit an anti-Semitic strain that could well become more pervasive among militia groups as a result of the movement's obsessive conspiracy mongering."



In short, we feel we have been as even-handed as possible when discussing the existing extremism within the militia movement.

Jeffrey P. Sinensky,
director, ADL Civil Rights Division
New York City

ONE MORE HALO

Thank you for the excellent account of SOG's top-secret HALO missions, which until *SOF* published it, had never before been in print. I was the Covey Rider/FAC that flew support to RT Washington's jump, and remember how close-run a thing it was. These were all brave and dedicated men who at last can get the recognition that security concerns made impossible 25 years ago.

In that light, I must add one more HALO team which the article somehow missed. In September 1971, a four-man, all-U.S. SOG team skydived into the heavily occupied Plei Trap Valley, five miles from the Cambodian border.

Led by Captain Jim Storter, the team included Sergeant First Class Newman Ruff, Staff Sgt. Miller Moye and Sgt. Jim Bentley. Of SOG's five HALO jumps, only this mission succeeded entirely: Storter's men man-

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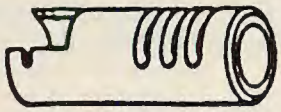

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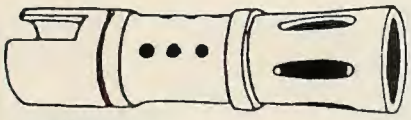

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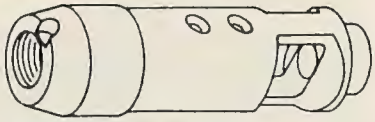

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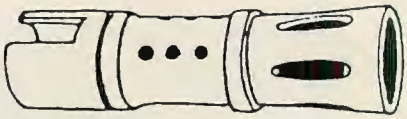

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aged to stay together in the air, land deep behind enemy lines at night, without injury, assemble, then conduct a four-day recon mission.

Also, credit must be given to the then-Chief SOG, Colonel John "Skip" Sadler, who was the impetus behind these HALO missions. As one of the Army's foremost parachuting experts, Sadler had served on Fort Benning's Airborne Board, and during the Korean War — while serving with the CIA's JACK Special Operations Unit — experimented with freefall parachuting as a means to insert agents behind Chinese lines, but never had a chance to test the concept operationally until he was Chief SOG.

John L. Plaster
Major, USAR (ret.)

Major Plaster's full-length SOG history, SOG: The Secret Wars, *will be released in September by Simon & Schuster.*

NON-LETHAL DEFENSE

I want to add a bit of reality to the debate about firearms/concealed-carry laws because I believe the NRA has perpetrated lies about firearm ownership. I live in downtown Washington, D.C., and need a self-defense product for protection: I carry Mace Pepper Gard 10%. I have been a victim of four incidents, one of which escalated to an actual assault. It occurred when a man came down the street saying "I'm going to kill that bitch." He demanded a cigarette but I walked by. He shouted, "Come back here, mother****er!" I turned and saw him grab for me. I sprayed him in nose and mouth with my mace. His expression was shock; he was immediately incapacitated. I am a lawyer and know "assault": any behavior that causes fear and a threat of immediate bodily harm. This incident was an assault. I called the police and reported it; some other people also had reported my attack. Fortunately, an eyewitness backed me up. A police officer gave me thumbs-up for fighting back. On the other hand, I'd have been facing prison had I used a handgun because of D.C.'s gun ban. Even using Virginia's permit-to-carry law as an example, 1) I would have needed a threat of death to myself or immediate family member to use my firearm; 2) showing my weapon in any lesser threat would lead to permit loss and criminal penalties for brandishing; 3) I could be charged with manslaughter and/or sued for wrongful death if I killed someone without sufficient cause; 4) there are places I am not allowed to carry a firearm: liquor establishments, court, churches, etc.

And adding the fact that bullets can travel a mile or more, a firearm is a poor choice for the city. Would the NRA come to my defense if I challenged D.C.'s handgun ban on Second Amendment grounds? Not likely, since they know that every court has upheld gun restrictions — despite what the NRA tells the public.

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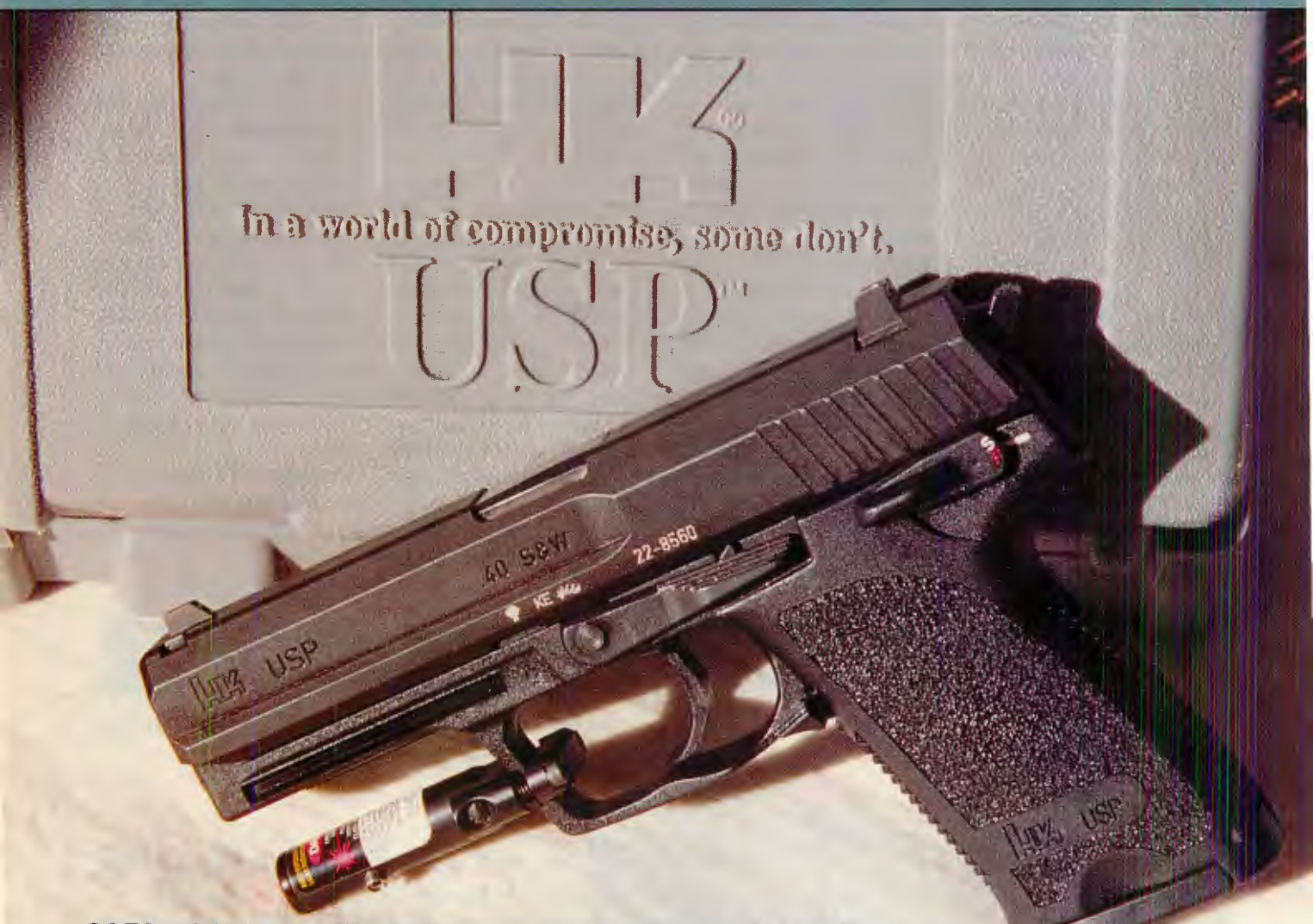

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• For name of prize winner, send SASE to March/April '96 Sweepstakes Winners List, c/o SOF, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306

The Snap Shot

Text & Photos by Gabriel Suarez

The rifle is well suited for long-range deployment and can easily allow its user to reach out great spans of distance to smite an adversary from afar. Under such classic circumstances, a rifleman will often have ample time to assume a proper supported firing position, control his breathing and press the "glass rod" trigger with great certainty and sensitivity.

There are other times, however, where a rifleman will be suddenly presented with an adversary across the road, not across the canyon, and he will not be able to take his time. When the distance shrinks, so does the time available to react to a threat. At these times, the rifleman must shoot quickly (and more importantly, hit quickly) or be shot himself! This is where the snap shot can be employed.

The snap shot uses a type of "flash sight picture" concept similar to that used with the pistol. The flash sight picture for the shoulder fired weapon (rifle, shotgun or submachine gun) involves the binocular use of the eyes for quick target acquisition as well as fast sight recognition. Both of these visual actions take place concurrent with quick mounting (or shouldering) of the weapon.

Snap shooting works extremely well out to about 50 yards. The farther away our adversary, the more refined our sight picture must become. But the closer our adversary, the less refinement of the sight picture is needed and, subsequently, the less time is required to hit him.

For example, a shot at 15 yards will only require roughly seeing the front sight (or reticle) superimposed on the adversary's chest. We don't need to center punch his middle button; a simple hit somewhere on the chest will do — so finite accuracy is not essential. On the other hand, taking a shot at a man 150 yards away will require much sharper definition of the sight picture or we will miss him completely!

Snap shooting can be accomplished regardless of the sighting system used. I have found that a low-powered scope (or scope setting) substantially facilitates snap shooting. A forward mounted extended eye-relief scope, as evidenced on the scout rifle concept, also fills the need quite well.

However, some applications do not favor the use of glass sights. This is notably the case with weapons likely to see rough handling and hostile environmental conditions. This is also the case with weapons whose main attribute is compactness.

For these applications, the large aperture sight system known as the

Continued on page 77

The High Ready Position: The butt is at the beltline. The muzzle is in line with the eyes and the target. The visual focus is on the target.

Mid-Point to the target: The safety is disengaged (the trigger finger is about to enter the trigger guard) and the rifle is thrust toward the target.

On Target! The rifle is mounted into the shoulder pocket; the stock weld is established; the alignment is visually verified and the shot is fired.

I WAS THERE

Budapest, 1956

by Rainer Stahlberg

Spontaneously and against impossible odds, 40 years ago Hungarian patriots took up arms against their Russian and communist oppressors. Although painfully short-lived, the freedom they won portended the eventual fall of the Soviet empire.

Under the communists, private ownership of firearms was nearly impossible in Hungary, and "internal passports" were carried by all over the age of 16. If you wanted to visit your grandmother who lived close to the Austrian border, you had to get special permission to visit the border zone.

If the above sounds a bit like current trends in the United States and Canada, we are not there yet: But what I experienced as a 16-year-old in Hungary gives some idea of what could happen here as well.

When the revolution broke out on 23 October 1956, the news was not on the radio. Several young men came to our school and told us the exciting news of what was happening in downtown Budapest. The next morning Dad sent me to buy bread and milk, but instead of going to the state-owned corner store, I went toward the local police station.

In the suburbs of Budapest, most policemen rode bicycles. Seeing a policeman getting ready to return to the police station, I knew he would have to pass me. I wrenched a loose picket from a fence and as the policeman passed by me I swung it at his neck, edge on. He tumbled from the bicycle and I opened his holster and took out his Tokarev pistol. In a movie about the Second World War I had seen soldiers pull back on the top of the pistol before firing. So I pulled on the slide and fired at the head of the policeman — pulled the slide again and fired until the slide was locked back.

An old man came from a house and held me while I threw up. The policeman's head was macerated. The man then picked up four live rounds of ammunition and showed me how to remove the magazine, load it and chamber a fresh round. He also showed me I needn't pull the slide back for each shot, and to take the spare magazine from the fallen enemy — my first firearms lesson.

Taking the bicycle, I rode toward the police station. Shots could be heard as I approached the building. A young man with a Mosin Nagant rifle told me, "Get off the bike, you make a target." We were in the back of the police compound, 10 yards from the back door. The young man told me, "The AVO blue-band bastards are holed up there, the policemen went home to their families." The AVOs were the internal and border protection troops: They were like the BATF, the DEA and the Border Patrol rolled into one, with the equipment of a military unit.

The back door opened and an AVO came out with a drum-fed submachine gun. The man with the

AP/Wide World

"There were several trucks in the compound and we piled into one, with Miklos driving. He said that we were going downtown to help the others, and that was fine with me. The city streets were empty." A truck with Hungarian youths, holding a white flag marked in blood, speeds through revolution-torn Budapest on 29 October 1956.

AP/Wide World

In late October 1956, secret plans were underway for a Hungarian revolution with external backing, when a spontaneous popular uprising went off half-cocked. The almost-successful revolution was crushed by overwhelming Soviet might, generating myriad stories of individual heroism — and floods of refugees to the West. Fighting with sticks, stones, hand tools and Molotov cocktails, courageous Hungarians left the streets littered with Soviet armor such as this T-34 tank.

rifle stood up and fired, missed, and was in turn shot by the AVO man. Poking my head up, I fired the pistol until it was empty. The AVO man fell and the submachine gun dropped out of his hands. I grabbed the weapon and tucked my empty pistol into my pocket. The young man was dead. There was no movement, even as I shook him.

Going toward the front of the compound I saw young men and a few young women entering the building. I followed them. Inside a youth wearing army pants asked me, "Is your magazine loaded?" Looking at the submachine gun, I was trying to figure out how to take the magazine out. First I pulled on it, then pushed on the lever and then pulled on it. I could feel the magazine moving, then the gun fired. One of the young girls jumped and yelled, "That shot almost hit me! Don't you know how to handle that gun?" I nervously told them that I just took it off the AVO policeman in the back and had no idea how to remove the magazine.

The young man with the army pants introduced himself as Miklos, explaining to me that I had a PPSh model 1941 submachine gun, and showed me how to load the drum magazine and how to use it. The young girl I almost shot gave me a piece of bread and a mug of coffee. I asked her if she were still mad at me and she said no, most men were stupid anyway.

There were several trucks in the compound and we piled into one, with Miklos driving. He said that we were going downtown to help the others, and that was fine with me. The city streets were empty. From the back of the truck I could see that only a few young people were on the streets. We reached downtown Budapest and met up with a group of people. Most were armed like us, with an assortment of weapons.

They told Miklos they found the arms cache at an AVO detachment so if we needed ammunition to go get it. By then I knew the pistol and submachine gun used the same cartridge, so I went with them to the room where the arms

Continued on page 84

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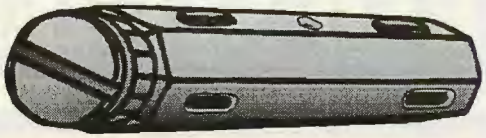

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WORLD SITREP

1

UNITED STATES

Military begins deployment to Bosnia as Congress gives lukewarm support to peace plan brokered by President Clinton. U.S. forces will total about 20,000, including Army's 1st Armored Division, an Airborne Task Force, and Marine combat units with snipers; another 12,000 personnel elsewhere in Europe and on ships in the Adriatic will support operation. White House projects yearly costs of U.S. assistance in Bosnia at nearly $2 billion.

Pentagon merges all military covert ops into single unit: Defense Human Intelligence Service, a branch of DIA, with 1,000 military and civilian personnel. In an international conference, United States joins Britain in rejecting any U.N. ban prohibiting "smart mines" (which become inert after an interval); China, Russia, Pakistan and Mexico oppose any plan allowing only "smart mines" and oppose any limit on mines.

Marine tests in Alaska show TOW antitank missiles become inaccurate beyond 3,000 meters as temperatures near zero.

2

RUSSIA

Out of 42 political parties, hard-liners — Communists, ultra-nationals, Russian conservatives — hostile to Western-style reforms are expected to take control of parliament in national elections. Presidential election set for 16 June.

Army announces approval of plan to destroy entire stock of chemical weapons by 2005. Brigade of nearly 2,000 personnel assigned to American sector in Bosnia, will "nominally" become part of U.S. 1st Armored Division.

6

5

1

6

BRITAIN

The 45th Royal Marines battalion withdraws from Northern Ireland in the third troop reduction since the negotiated cease fire began in 1994. Desperately short of infantry, the army retains 400 of the 1,000 Gurkhas it had planned to discharge by 1997. A three-judge panel rules the military's ban on homosexuals is "neither irrational nor unlawful."

7

ZAIRE

Hutu rebels conduct training in remote mountain parks and use the rare mountain gorillas as targets. Zairean government responds by fitting some animals with flak jackets.

16

8

BURMA

Fighting between the Khun Sa and United Wa State armies escalates in the "Golden Triangle." Shan and Burmese frontline commanders reach agreement on loose ceasefire. The government anticipates a peace treaty with the Karen National Union.

11

INDIA

Government postpones bilateral trade meeting with France until Paris cancels plans to sell Mirage fighters to Pakistan. Indian and Chinese officials agree to resolve their 30-year border dispute.

12

NIGERIA

Execution of nine activists of the Ogoni tribe, which opposes government exploitation of oil in its area, brings condemnation and political retribution by Britain, the Organization of African Unity, United States and European Union.

13

SEYCHELLES

The U.S. will close and dismantle its satellite tracking station here by October '96 — a $9 million-a-year blow to the islands' economy.

3

BOSNIA

IFOR order of battle: Northern (U.S. sector): 20,000 U.S. and at least 1,500 Russian troops; Nordic brigade, 4,500; Baltic battalion, 1,000; Polish battalion, 1,000; Turkish task force, 1,200; and Hungarian rail detachment, 100. Western (British sector): British 3rd Armored Div., 13,000; Canadian battalion group, 1,500 or less; Dutch combined-arms brigade, 2,000; and German support units (in Croatia), 4,000. Southern (French sector): French, 10,000; Italian brigade, 2,300; Spanish battalion, 1,250; Portuguese air-mobile battalion, 900; Egyptian battalion, at least 650. Bihac Sector: Multi-national brigade.

Non-IFOR U.N. troops will perform mine-clearing, road and bridge repairs, and logistics. Separate U.N. command will occupy Eastern Slavonia, a part of Croatia.

4

BULGARIA

Authorities break up an international ring smuggling nuclear material. Based in Russia and Ukraine, it probably was run by "Ukrainian Mafia."

5

FRANCE

In a series of surprise moves, France effectively reintegrates itself into NATO, rebuilding all of the military links it had severed in 1966.

Despite international protests, France continues series of six nuclear detonations in the Pacific; Britain refuses to join in U.N. condemnation of nuke tests, but Italy, Belgium and Finland do, for which Paris angrily cancels summit meetings. Government tightens antiterrorism law in response to series of terror bombings by radicals from Algeria.

9

SUDAN

United Nations refuses to allow Sudanese commercial airliners into Libya to repatriate 300,000 Sudanese that Libya is expelling. Ugandan government takes seriously Sudanese accusations that it is supporting rebels and Sudanese threats to attack, by vowing a powerful counterattack against any offensive. SPLA rebels close in on Juba, the capital of the southern region.

10

SRI LANKA

Tamil rebel stronghold of Jaffna falls, following 50-day government offensive that kills 2,500 soldiers and rebels.

16

NICARAGUA

Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega announces his candidacy for president in the 1996 election.

14

IRAQ

U.N. inspector reports Baghdad worked on "dirty" weapon to scatter radioactive material without a nuclear explosion. Citing Iraq's lack of cooperation with inspectors, United Nations renews sanctions.

15

TURKEY

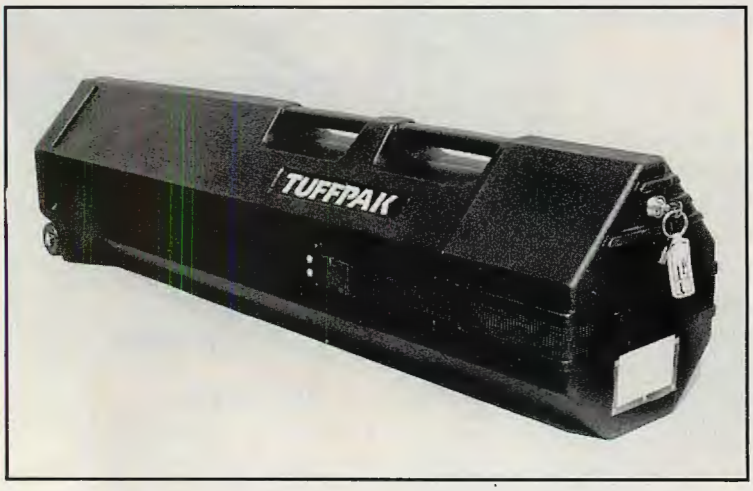
As skirmishes continue in the south between government troops and PKK rebels, PKK leader Ocalan offers to end insurgency if Ankara allows Kurds to manage their own affairs within a Turkish-Kurdish federation.

World SitRep is excerpted from the biweekly newsletter *For Your Eyes Only: An Open Intelligence Summary of Current Military Affairs.* Published by Tiger Publications, P.O. Box 8759, Amarillo, Texas, 79114-8759; subscriptions are $70 per year (26 issues), $74.38 in Texas. Sample issue available for $3. Those interested in reliable, up-to-date world intel are encouraged to subscribe.

ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER

TUFFPAK

Lockable, hardbody gun cases serve two functions: They protect your firearms from abuse by the elements and rough handling, and they help prevent the theft of individual firearms. Trouble is, the average thief working the baggage belts is as able as you to carry it off *en toto*, and he often does so because rifle cases are easy to spot and obviously valuable. The Tuffpak multiple gun case by Nalpak serves to complete the protection equation, as it will carry four long guns (or three long guns and five handguns) in their soft cases. It locks securely with a Chicago Ace II tubular lock — and it is adapted from a heavy-duty eight-sided case originally manufactured for transporting expensive movie-camera tripods, so it doesn't *look* like a tempting rifle case.



The Tuffpak is 52 inches long by 13 inches in diameter, rotationally molded from cross-linked polyethylene that is tough as nails and resistant to solvents, shock, dents or abrasions. Foam liners similar to those in conventional luggage-style gun cases are available. It has built-in handles for access to the point of balance for carrying, and built-in casters for easily rolling heavy loads. They've covered all the bases on this one: We don't know of anything more practical for the safe and secure transport of guns on an airliner. The Tuffpak is guaranteed for life. For more information contact Nalpak Sales Inc., Dept. SOF, 1937-C Friendship Drive, El Cajon, CA 92020; phone: 619-258-1200; fax: 800-4-NALPAK.

SPETSNAZ SURVIVAL MACHETE

Good gear is always a good investment, and some of the best gear is that made for military use. America has always given her Snuffies gear that's good to go with: The former USSR always saw to it Ivan had a strong and reliable rifle, but rare and wonderful goodies usually went only to elite units. A case in point is the multi-purpose survival machete issued to former-Soviet Spetsnaz troops. The term "survival" is a bit misleading since it implies a tool used only in extraordinary circumstances, while this strongly built tool has features an outdoorsman will use every day.

Built to rigorous milspec from high-carbon steel (our favorite for hefty chopping tools), the 15-inch tool has a 10-inch blade and weighs 1-1/2 pounds. Working features include a squared-bolo machete, knife, shovel, ice pick, saw (wood *or* metal), square-bar screwdriver, wrenches, rope cutter, wire stripper, compass, navigational sight, and ruler. Its total uses are limited only by the user's imagination. The hollow handle carries such survival supplies as the user deems important (comes with fishing hooks/line/sinkers and matches). The high-carbon steel is hard enough to skate a file and makes wonderfully hot sparks with flint. It'll very seldom need sharpening, and as meaty as the blade is, I doubt if you'll ever chip it. It is suitable for prying duties, as long as you remember it's high-carbon steel. Grip scales are orange synthetic, and they are slim enough and have a thong hole that facilitates wrapping them

Continued on page 29

Carjacked... Beaten... Assaulted...

WORSE!

She's your girlfriend. Your wife. Your daughter. Your sister, your mother, or your best friend. She's a woman in danger...

And Her *Safety* Is YOUR Responsibility As A Man!

How do you explain to her you just *never had the time* to learn how to fight?

Dear Friend,

I'm not going to waste your time with any fancy talk here.

Here's the bottom line: If you understand **what it's like to be a man** in today's world of constant carjackings, murders, rapes, and *just plain humiliation* at the hands of scumbag bullies and paroled perverts — and I believe you *do* understand — then it's time you admitted to yourself this critically important fact: Just *wanting* to protect your loved ones *isn't enough anymore...*

You Need The Raw, Vicious Skills To Fight *And WIN* In The Streets If You Are Ever Attacked!

That's why I'm writing to you today.

If you'll give me **5 short minutes**... I will show you how to learn (in simple-yet-exquisite detail) the rawest, dirtiest, *must-win* fighting skills that will *transform* you (whenever you're in danger) into the **most vicious, take-care-of-business fighter imaginable!**

There's nothing fancy about these "top edge" skills — but *without question* it's **exactly** what you want in your "bag of tricks"...

When You *Cannot* Afford To Lose!

I don't care what you look like, or what your fighting experience is (it's even *better* if you have *no experience at all)!* I am going to show you how these skills can all be yours *forever...* with just a **few hours** of intense training. On your own. In your home.

Why is this so damned important? I'll tell you. In a recent **San Francisco Chronicle** story, I read about a young mother who witnessed a crime by Hell's Angels. They came for her, and made the parents *watch* while the bikers literally tore their two daughters to pieces. Dead at five years old, three years old. *Daddy couldn't help...*

Daddy Didn't Know How To Fight!

In **USA Today**, I read about the **6-foot-5, 250 lb. 17-year-old punk** who was pissed about his football career... and decided to focus his rage on a *woman* (5'1", 99 lbs.) who accidentally bumped his car in traffic. On a bridge. With *fifty other motorists* sitting there watching, he broke every bone in her face, then loudly offered her up for sex, five bucks a throw, to anyone who wanted her. Imagine how she felt, bleeding, unable to escape, *trying to catch someone's eye in all those silent cars around her!*

She wrenched herself free... and jumped off the bridge, dying on impact. That's how *bad* this jerk hurt her.

She was 35-years-old. She was someone's wife, some kid's mother. She could have been *your* sister.

No one helped her.

Not one guy in all those cars had the guts or the know-how to stop the horror!

Sure, the kid was big, and out-of-control with rage and bloodlust... *but **you** could have taken him out with a single shot!* In fact...

With What You're About To Learn, You Could Have Taken This Animal Down In Two Seconds!

Hell... you could take down *two guys* that size! **Judy Mayrand** is 5'4", 110... and she *knocked out* a man 6 feet tall, 180 lbs. with a shot that left him *permanently afraid of smaller women!*

You, you're **bigger** than Judy. You've got more muscle. You're a *man*. Nevertheless, right now she would *clean the floor* with you.

What does *she* know that you don't? Just a few fighting secrets. They're **simple** secrets, too — easy to master, easy to *use* no matter what your size or strength or skill level.

Even so, these simple fighting secrets have the *raw, seething power* to make you (almost overnight!)...

Meaner And More *Vicious* Than Any Streetfighter On The Planet... Giving You The Skills And Mental Toughness To *Win Every Fight* You Are Forced Into!

It takes a man with some *real nasty skills* to make a gang of **Hell's Angels** back off. To make a trained streetfighter think twice... and *leave quickly*. To *force* a big, strong scumbag to look elsewhere for an easy "hit"... and leave you and your family alone because his "instinct" says (about *you*)...

"Stay *Away* From That Guy!"

The man you want to trust to teach you these techniques is **James West**. He has **won over 600 (SIX HUNDRED!) streetfights** in the blood and dirt of the real world. He's hushed a room full of hard-drinking brawlers with a simple (yet devastating) brush of his hand. Sent *three men* to the hospital without putting his beer down. *Manhandled* armed terrorists like rag dolls. Quelled a knife-wielding attacker, stitched up his *own* knife-wounds with purple sewing thread, and went back to his friends to finish the conversation. (All *true* and witnessed!)

He earned *half-a-dozen medals* in Iran during **Desert Storm** (where he was invited into the top secret Marine **"War Room"**

there to help plan offensives). Spent *15 years* in the "black bag" arm of the **Green Beret** (earning the coveted "Whiskey 9" *top secret clearance* that only the most elite... *and honestly dangerous*... soldiers ever receive). Saw bloody action in the famous "Poker Puff" and "Quail Shoot" special forces projects. (This *guarantees* him devoted, respectful silence whenever he tells a "war story".) He trains **special forces** in hostage rescue and **Justice Department agents** in hand-to-hand combat.

But more importantly...

Jim Knows How To *Quickly* Train People Like You And Me In The "Dark Art" Of Truly Nasty, *Vicious* No-Rules Fighting!

Sure, Jim is a Black Belt. He spent *20 years* specializing in face-to-face combat, facing armed and trained soldiers and terrorists *with nothing but his hands and his viciousness*. And he mopped up alleys with bigger, stronger and *truly-evil* streetfighters all over the planet.

But Jim doesn't teach martial arts. He doesn't teach you how to be a soldier. In fact, *nothing* I've seen him do would be allowed *anywhere* there was even a faint hope of "fair play"... or of giving the other guy *a chance to hit you back!*

Jim teaches streetfighting at a low-down, filthy "unfair" level that takes you *instantly* **beyond** training...

...beyond experience...

...beyond the mastering of skills that take *any time at all* to get "down"!

This is the kind of "insider" fighting know-how I *love*! No fancy b.s., no formal bowing or wasting even a *minute* on moves that won't let you put the "bad guy" down...

Right *Here*, Right *Now*!

Listen: If you *knew* you were going to be attacked by trained streetfighters tonight, a couple of hours from now... *and you couldn't lose the fight,* because other people were depending on you...

This Is EXACTLY What You'd Want To Learn Over The Next Two Hours!

Here's just a "taste" of what Jim West offers you (if you're ready to listen to him for just a short time):

- The *nastiest* streetfighting "tricks" you'll ever need... *guaranteed* to astonish (and defeat) almost every attacker within seconds!
- How to tap a **hidden resource** deep inside you to relax under extreme stress... and — at just the right moment — use **fear** as the *greatest motivator and fighting tool* you could ever ask for!
- How to **physically position yourself** during a streetfight! (You need *radically different approaches* when in an alley than when you're inside a bar... something 99% of "would-be" fighters don't even begin to understand!)
- How to pinpoint the **number one knockout target** on your opponent! (A sure-fire *fight-ending* strike that often opens up for you two-to-five seconds after a fight begins!)
- **Finally**! The *perfect way* to hold your hand when striking... for **maximum** "bite" (no matter how strong you are) and *greatest accuracy* (no matter how fast or slow you are)!
- Balancing secrets that allow you to move quickly and *never* risk being knocked down!
- The **four "basics" of punching** that are absolutely crucial in a streetfight! (And ignored by 90% of fighters who go down first!)
- An **exact "map" of target areas** on your opponent... especially the "single strike" knockdown areas of soft tissue and the "hidden" internal targets that will put a look of *utter astonishment* on his face just before his lights go out!
- **Special "stomp" and low-line kicks** you can use today that will drop Attila the Hun like a sack of potatoes!
- Why top streetfighters *never* have to use anything else but the **four basics of "nasty" fighting!** (And they almost never have to throw a classic "punch"!)
- How to *exploit* the **"Time Lapse" weakness** of the most brutal streetfighters! (Just surviving the *first ten seconds* of a fight with these goons will give you a *fight-ending advantage they've never encountered before!*)
- Down and dirty **street-level tricks** that work like magic to turn things around 180 degrees... *when you're losing a fight!*
- How to *beat* a trained boxer... wrestler... or karate expert... with the **simplest "3 Item" little bag of tricks** you could imagine! (Take two seconds to identify their "specialty", then manhandle them with an ease that will shock bystanders!)
- How to fight in a crowded room... *with your back to the wall!*
- A **two-second "cancellation" move** you can use for anyone, of any size, who is "in your face"!
- How to **visually set up zones** that "light up" the *best first-strike targets* in every different situation!
- "Unfair" **distraction tricks** that will fool — and *set up* — even the top one-percent of fighters!
- Why you should keep your hands *down by your pants-pockets* whenever someone in your space is a **second away** from starting a fight!
- The **first 3 things you MUST do** as soon as you put someone down!
- How to **"pre-protect"** yourself when entering a new place — an alley, a bar, a house, a restaurant!
- The **"no more talk" signals** of a streetfighter who is about to strike... and *what to watch* to actually see these signals a split-second before he consciously thinks it!
- **What cops know about streetfighters and gangs that can save your life!**
- How to *force* a larger man to get on his knees and stay there until help arrives! (*Incredibly effective* for women and kids, too!)
- How your wife, children and friends can *help* you instantly defeat a sudden attack by a criminal... *even if you are surprised from behind!*
- **"Finishing blows"** that *guarantee* the fight is over!
- How to fight **multiple opponents**... including tricks to save your life against an "undefeatable mob", and how to keep *strangers* from becoming your worst enemy while you're trying to finish things!
- **Three amazing techniques** that allow you to *end* any scrap that winds up on the ground... *within three seconds!*

And more! A lot more than *you could ever hope to learn on your own...*

Even If You Fought *Every Day* For The Rest Of Your Life Against The Best In The World!

You know why? Because, it takes a hell of a lot *more* than just trading punches with other fighters to figure out the "win every time" tricks that separate the guys on the floor from the guys who walk away. It takes the steel-lined brain of a fighter who never loses!

Jim West has been walking away the victor for *20 years* from the most brutal fights you could ever imagine — in the jungles and deserts as well as the alleys and bars of the **worst areas** in the world. **But more important to you**... Jim has studied every trick in the book, and *learned them through application*. That's where a *real* fighter has the ultimate advantage over the "studio" teacher...

Jim Found What Works By *Making It Work*... Against World-Class Fighters Who Would Have *Killed* Him If He Lost!

How would you like to see, for yourself — *without risking a dime* — what Jim has to teach you?

This should *really* piss you off!

- The *average* rapist is charged with more than 3 sex crimes when caught... and for every rape he's charged with, there are perhaps a dozen more he's committed... and gotten away with... because no had the skill to protect the women he stalked! (Minneapolis Star-Tribune)
- There are over 13,000 convicted killers on parole walking the streets of New York on any given day!
- In Fresno, California (your typical mid-sized American city), the SWAT teams are on *24-hour alert*... and cops stand on the corner of Blackstone Avenue and Shields Blvd. armed with *MP-5 machine guns*... yet are still out-gunned by the gangs who really control the town!
- *Forty-three percent* (43%) of all violent offenders released from prison are back in a cell for new crimes *within a WEEK!* (Safe Street Alliance, Washington, DC)
- Film documentaries of prison yards *prove* that inmates spend most of their days trading secrets on torturing and manipulating victims and "honing" their crime skills... *including advanced karate and no-rules street moves designed to cause the most pain and humiliation!*
- There are "blood in, blood out" national gangs in 45 states now... continually seeking fresh "target" areas for carjackings, home assaults and victims to have "fun" with! (Department of Justice)
- There's a homicide *every 20 minutes* in this country... a rape every *5 minutes* (that gets reported -- *most don't*)... a robbery every 46 seconds... a physical assault every 29 seconds (sending someone to the hospital with damage that is likely lifelong)... *and a home burglary every 5 seconds!* (FBI Uniform Crime Report)
- And, finally, here's something that should begin to sober up the men of America (who are often ignorant of the fear and anxiety women and kids suffer): *Male* rape -- where men attack and *sexually abuse* other men -- is now rampant. And you *know* that for every guy with the guts to admit being raped, there are ten or a *hundred* more too ashamed to bring charges! Not too long ago, a cop the size of a fullback was raped in Los Angeles; it's not just "sissies" who are being stalked and brutalized. The world has changed, my friend...

I'm betting money **out of my own pocket** that what you see will excite you more than anything else you've ever witnessed in your search for a fighting system you can trust!

Here's what it's all about: I paid an *outrageous sum* of money to fly Jim West and three of his students out to a hot San Diego film studio... where, for a *solid week*, they sweated and fought in front of the cameras. It was the most amazing display of "fight to win" techniques I've ever seen. And that's what we called the two video tapes that came out of that intense shoot: **"Fight To Win!"**

Now, I know you've been pummeled with mail and ads in the magazines from *other* fighters... all of whom claim to have the fighting system you've been dreaming of all your life. That's fine... there *are* a lot of pretty good fighters out there, and they can teach you some cool things.

But what Jim has to offer you **goes way beyond** just "fighting". No. What Jim has is the brutal, **"let's-end-this-right-here-right-now"** detailed tricks and techniques that you can learn today...

And Use *Tonight* To Save Your Life!

And — *more importantly* — you will be able to save the lives of those people who depend on you for protection!

This isn't kid's stuff... although the techniques are so good, *and so easy to master*, that kids *can* learn and use them for "instant" self-defense! In fact, one of the students Jim has on the tapes is a woman (5 feet tall, just over 100 lbs.)... who shows you in no uncertain terms...

How *Anyone*, of *Any* Size, Can *Demolish* A Trained Attacker With A Single Move!

But I want you to see this amazing stuff on your own! That's why I've really gone to the *edge*, financially, to make it simple for you to see these tapes personally. **At no risk whatsoever!** It is, quite frankly, a guarantee of satisfaction that *no one* in their right mind would pass up!

However, before I explain all that to you, I want to "up the ante" another notch. How? By giving you, **absolutely FREE**, a *third* videotape from Jim... an **Advanced** set of fighting skills that gives you, immediately, the *inside edge* on fighting against weapons and multiple opponents.

Here's what you get on this **FREE bonus tape:**

- How to *quickly* take out **multiple attackers!**
- The **one advantage you have** in a streetfight that no gang member could *ever* defeat!
- How to take thick-necked boxers down with **throat manipulations he cannot defend against!**
- **Escape techniques** that allow you to *get out of any hold* you are surprised with!
- How to use a beer bottle as a weapon! (Yes, there is a right and **wrong way** to use it!)
- **Who to take out first** when attacked by two opponents!
- How to use "non-weapons" as weapons — *including umbrellas, pencils, watches, magazines and even globs of dirt!*

Probably the best part is... you get to **KEEP** this bonus advanced tape of Jim's *no matter what you decide* to do about the main two tapes! **Here's how it works:** Just call and order this tape set package **"Fight To Win"**. Keep it all, and *treat it as yours for a full 3 months*. If, at the end of those 3 months, you don't *agree 100%* that what Jim offers is the best "right now" fighting system you've ever learned... simply send back the two main tapes for a complete refund of your purchase price. No questions asked, no hassles, *no delay in getting your money back*. And we'll still be friends.

And... you get to **KEEP** the bonus Advanced tape, as our gift to you, just for accepting this risk-free offer!

Now, this kind of **ultra-generous guarantee** puts me in a financial bind... because *I've already paid out a King's-ransom* just to create these exciting tapes... and the set I send to you is made with the *best* Sony "industrial quality" tape equipment available (*better* than what Hollywood uses). So, I'm *out quite a bit* just offering you this risk-free deal.

But it's worth it. Because, *if you're anything like the other men I've shown these video tapes to,* you're going to go **NUTS** over Jim's fighting techniques. Guys all over the country have been *hounding* me for copies ever since word leaked out that we had caught Jim on tape (he's got probably the **most notorious reputation** among veteran fighters on the planet)! I'm willing to gamble on your decision. I think you'll see *exactly* what everyone else sees...

The Best Fighting System In The World For Fast Learning, And Ultra-Confidence In The Street!

So here's what you need to do now: Just call my office at the Underground Streetfighters Association — that's toll-free **1-800-294-9602** — ask for **Department JW-09**, and tell whoever answers you want the special deal on "Fight To Win". You can use your credit card, and you'll be rushed tapes One (82 minutes) and Two (88 minutes)... *plus* your FREE bonus Advanced tape (74 minutes)... by return mail! (Or, if you prefer to pay by check or money order, just fill out the **Priority Order Coupon** you see below and send it with your payment. The price for all this is just $97 plus $4.50 shipping and handling... and that, my friend...

Is That Biggest Bargain You'll Ever See For This Kind Of Inside Information!

Now, you *could* take that money and go get one or two fancy lessons at your local dojo... and maybe you'll learn how to **bow correctly**. Or, you could find some *gang member* who would take your money and teach you how to spit in someone's face. Or, you could maybe *buy a cheap gun*. Or a good meal with wine for you and someone special...

But you better hope you don't get attacked in the parking lot! Because, without the "bam-and-you're-safe" fighting techniques that Jim offers, you *will* become a new statistic on the **FBI** crime sheets. *And God knows what will happen to your "someone special"!*

No one gets a medal these days for "trying hard". You can be attacked *anywhere*, anytime... and when the people you love and care about are with you, *you simply cannot afford to "hope" for a cop to save you...* or for *God* to intervene... or for the sleazy jerk assaulting you to have *mercy*.

It ain't gonna happen. **You can't afford to lose this fight!** Nice guys don't just *finish last* in the street...

They *Get* Finished Off... Forever!

Worse, the kids and women and girls who **depend on you** for protection get hurt, too. *They get hurt bad.*

Sometimes, what happens to them is *worse* than being killed. Sometimes, the damage they have to live with is like *dying a thousand times*. And they have to **feel** that pain every day for the rest of their lives.

It's time for you to stand up and get your act together. With the *real-world fighting skills* that will give you back **control** of your world. Of your street. Of your home and property. Of the safety of your loved ones.

So call now. Don't put this off for another minute. It's too important.

Sincerely,

Bob Pierce
President, United Streetfighters Association

P.S. **Don't think that just because I'm offering you such a great no-risk deal now that you can *wait*. This is not something that will be there *later* when you decide you made a mistake by not ordering. My offer to you — *and you should know I'm only writing to a relatively small number of people I believe deserve this information* — is for** right now. **Not tomorrow. Not next week. Not next month.**

You aren't risking a dime by calling! These tapes are here, with your name on them, and you risk absolutely nothing at any time. **I am taking 100% of the risk.** Let's be clear on that. Call now.

HERE'S WHAT FIGHTERS SAY ABOUT JIM WEST'S AMAZING TECHNIQUES!

"I've seen Jim take two chest-beating Navy SEALS to the floor in under two seconds, with one move... and hold them both there until they calmed down, which Jim made sure was a brief time. After he taught my door staff a few simple restraining moves, we haven't had any serious trouble." **Skip Follette**, partner in "The Stadium" bar (75% military clientele)

*"This is **Top Level**, no-nonsense stuff you can learn fast and use with complete confidence almost immediately. With the one-shot take-out moves I learned from Jim, fights don't last longer than the time it takes to blink, even if I'm surprised from behind."* **Jerry Goney**, professional bouncer for Rick's Lounge in Fayetteville, NC, the roughest military hangout in the country for 48 years

*"When two very large fellows tried to shake me down in a parking lot, I responded with a simple fast-and-violent move Jim had **taught me in 5 minutes** that put the biggest guy down hard... and sent his tough buddy running. I love Jim's style, because you don't need to warm up or have any special skills. This is what my little daughters are learning for their own self-defense — I'm making sure of that!"* **Remo Butler**, Lt. Col., Special Forces, Pennsylvania

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1-800-294-9602 (Ask For Department JW-09)
Priority Order Form For *Soldier of Fortune* Readers Only!

☐ **YES!** I'm ready to take full responsibility for my own self-protection... and the protection of the people around me I care about! I realize I **need** the amazingly-effective "down and dirty" techniques that Jim offers... stuff I can learn fast, and **use with confidence...** knowing I must win and cannot afford to ever lose! But I don't risk anything, since I also get your **hyper-generous Guarantee:** I can keep the tapes for a full 3 months... and, if I'm not completely, **100% satisfied** -- for any reason or for no reason at all -- all I have to do is return the two main tapes for a **complete (and fast) refund** of my purchase price! Plus, I get to KEEP the bonus "advanced" tape, no matter what! Therefore, here is how I wish to pay:

☐ I prefer to pay by credit card.
Please charge my:
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card #: _____

Expires: _____

Signature _____

☐ Enclosed is my check/money order (payable to USA), for $101.50 ($97 + $4.50 Shipping & Handling)

Please rush my package to:

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Address: _____

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CA & VA residents add appropriate sales tax. Rush shipping available for additional charges of $10 for "2-Day" shipping and $15 for "Overnight" shipping. Foreign orders may require additional shipping. Call (209) 627-9124 for more information.

Continued from page 24

with a grip/supply of 550 cord. The "shovel" tip is about as capacious as the old trowel-bayonet for the trapdoor Springfield — a double handful — but with a two-handed grip you can move a surprising amount of hard, rocky dirt with it.

Since the name implies its primary function is "machete," we tested it on all nature of chopping jobs, and it did well. It performed better than a hatchet on most "hatchet" jobs, and as well as any machete of similar length on brush-whacking and pruning chores. Being a peaceable sort, we did not test it thus, but it would make an excellent fighting bolo. It's such a good chopper, it's going to replace the battered kukri I've kept on the hearth for years — but it'll go with me to the woods, as it's one of the best camp tools we've ever come across. Get one, but don't let it hide in your "survival" gear: it was made to use, and it does its several jobs very well. If there's a Boy Scout in your family, he needs one (and it'll be a salty item his buds don't have).

New production from Russia's Saratov Military Factory (for decades, exclusive producers of survival knives/tool for the Soviet military), the Spetsnaz survival machetes are available for $69.95 plus $6.95 shipping and handling, from Sovietski Collection, Dept. SOF, Box 81347, San Diego, CA 92138; phone: 800-442-0002.

DOUBLE-BARRELED CANON

Image stabilization in hand-held optics has meant gyroscopic mechanisms to steady the unit, with considerations of weight and time required for the gyro to wind up to speed. Canon has entered the binocular market, avoiding these problems in their 12X36 IS model with their Vari-Angle prism that allows *optical* image stabilization by depressing the function button. Canon, Dept. SOF, One Canon Plaza, Lake Success, NY 11042; phone 516-328-5145.

Att: Collectors and Sportsmen...

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#202 DELUXE FRONT OPENER $49.95
Avail. all Black or Olive Drab w/ Nato Military covers. 440 Stainless Steel. Instantly rectractable blade. 8½" overall

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The Classic Stiletto. Lightning quick, side opening 440 Stainless Steel blade w/ Pearlite handle. Choose Black, White, Blue, Red. 8¾" overall.

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TASK FORCE E

The Return Of American Forces In

Text & Photos by Mark H. Milstein

Ground zero. Hell, more like an industrialized, polluted Balkan's version of Newark, New Jersey. Welcome to Tuzla, headquarters of the Bosnian army II Corps, location of enough cheap plumb brandy and bad reasons to keep this war grinding along for years to come and now home to Task Force Eagle — the U.S. Army's armor-heavy contribution to NATO's Implementation Force (IFOR) in Bosnia.

Rarely shelled and only shortly besieged, Tuzla limped its way through the war virtually unscathed, that is until SOF arrived and tried, albeit unsuccessfully, to convince the landlord of our newly opened Bosnia bureau that women under the age of 80 need not fear us and that our request for three beer taps, a go-go dancing cage, sound system and extra sheets and pillows had nothing to do with rumors that we were going to open a bar and brothel for U.S. GIs.

"It better not happen," the landlord dryly informed us. "If it does, you'll have trouble from the Mujahideen fighters and you will have to leave. This is still a Muslim society."

The same Muslims who drink like fish and smoke? No. Impossible.

A little bit worried about the threat of Muj retaliation (five Iranian mercs attached to the Bosnian army and one Bosnian Croat were killed the night before 20 kilometers down the road in a shoot-out over a similar incident) but more worried about the recent opening of the "American Club," Tuzla's first U.S.-style sports bar/ brothel/ bed & breakfast, we quickly reworked our plans and paid a visit to our "competition" to see if we were outclassed or outgunned.

When we pulled up in our battered, Russian-made Lada Niva jeep our butts were still smarting from a 30-hour non-stop ride from Budapest though one of the worst blizzards to hit this part of Europe in a quarter century. The place was just coming to life, fueled in part by the country ballads of Lynn Anderson and Conway Twitty.

"We are waiting for the American soldiers to come," said Senad Pehlivanovic, the club's manager, "but we are not a brothel. We are a nice place for U.S. soldiers to meet Bosnian girls, enjoy our food and have a good time. Soon we will have live music and entertainment. We even have six bedrooms upstairs for soldiers and anyone else to sleep."

Pehlivanovic, himself still on active duty with the Bosnian army, and the club's anonymous backers, spent thousands of deutsche marks to turn the club into a place any American would feel at home. Posters of Troy Aikman, Joe Montana, Shaq O' Neil and Roger Staubach hang over tables dotted with miniature NATO, Bosnian and U.S. flags. The bar staff, tastefully outfitted in black miniskirts,

U.S. Army M1A1 from 1st AD moves out down a road along the Sava River separating Bosnia from Croatia.

Although delayed for days due to record-breaking weather, troops arrive at Tuzla Army Air Base in northern Bosnia.

AGLE

Harm's Way

could not have been friendlier.

The club even sports a relatively high-tech security system for this part of the world, with newly arrived customers tripping a series of blinding klieg lights as soon as their toes touch the walkway. "Guards with guns are out," said Pehlivanovic. "We've had enough of that already. Are you sure you don't want another drink?"

No Planes Today

After returning to base, we agreed that Pehlivanovic's description of the American Club as a "nice place" for GIs to soak up local culture while knocking down a few brews might hold up for now. But in less than three days the U.S. Army's 325th Infantry Airborne Combat Team, from Vicenza, Italy, was expected to arrive. All bets would be off on just what would hold up longer: Tuzla's morality, their thirst for dollars or the notoriously dense fog.

"No planes today, folks, sorry," U.S. Army press affairs officer Major Ryan Yantis acidly told the 100 or so sleet-drenched journalists standing in pea-soup-thick fog along the tarmac at Tuzla Army Air Base. "If the FAA can't get in to calibrate the radar, then there will be no soldiers coming. That's it. Safety first."

One well-known CNN reporter sarcastically queried Yantis whether the FAA red tape was secretly a part of "Operation Deny Flight," NATO's mission to prevent the warring factions from using military aircraft during the three-year-long Bosnian war? The jab fell on deaf ears. The Army continually repeated that FAA certification of the approach radar was no laughing matter, and had to be made with an agency technician riding aboard the first aircraft able to land. After that, according to the Army, flights could come in as normal under all weather conditions.

The unusually dense fog and lack of activity was starting to affect everyone. Rumors had it that NBC News' Tom Brokaw was stuck at a NATO airfield in Aviano, Italy, and was going into a fast burn over word that CBS News rival Dan Rather had been able to make it into Tuzla and was broadcasting the evening news live from the net's prefab studio just outside the main gate. Even the normally friendly Swedish army tactical security teams guarding the airbase perimeter were starting to show signs of "Tuzla Fever," as the fog induced syndrome was known.

The Swedes, who along with elements of the Norwegian and Danish

armies made up NORBAT when the three forces served as part of the now defunct United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), controlled and held the Tuzla airbase — a former Yugoslavian National Army fighter base — for nearly 18 months with a troop of Leopard tanks, APCs and iron will before being relieved by NATO. With the U.N. handover to NATO forces only days away, the three NORBAT armies were scheduled for reassignment to other areas in northeast Bosnia. Sweden, a non-NATO member, was scaling down its involvement dramatically.

For now, however, there was no hope in sight. Mother Nature had dealt a sucker punch to NATO's first ever mission in the form of fog and snow. And the FAA was garroting any attempts by U.S. forces to look and act robust under any conditions before the cynical eye of the world's media. Day after day after day, C-130s carrying supplies and troops buzzed Tuzla's runways and, on occasion, made nearly "wing tip landings" in the less than 200-meter visibility, only to pull up at the last minute and return to Ramstein AFB, Germany.

Without a secure, operating airfield and headquarters, Task Force Eagle was grounded. No tanks, no airborne troops, no helicopters, no nothing.

Finally, on G-Day-plus-four the weather broke. Within hours, seven aircraft landed and discharged their cargo. Plenty of trucks and MPs, but still no sign of the 325th Airborne. Nightfall was quickly approaching, so without much prompting we decided to recon the American Club once more to see if there was anything we missed or didn't get enough of the first time.

Elements of the 1st AD, on patrol in Bosnia as part of NATO's Implementation Force, cruise for trouble.

Strange Bedfellows

"It just so happens that very pretty girls live in Tuzla and want to work here," Pehlivanovic said, commenting on the two vixens behind the bar in the club's main room. "We don't force them to do anything with boys they don't like. They do it because they love Americans. So, yes, American soldiers should come here and enjoy Tuzla hospitality."

Pehlivanovic then laid a blockbuster on our

With a Bradley Fighting Vehicle in overwatch, troops set concertina wire outside a front-line railhead north of the Sava River.

laps. He let it be known that the U.S. government had pre-paid five rooms upstairs from the club for 18 months for eight pilots, an unknown retired general and a congressman. "They're now in Frankfurt," Pehlivanovic said. "The Tuzla civil authorities 'suggested' I take them in, and I did. I didn't ask why they are here. They're Americans and that's good enough for me."

That eight "pilots," a retired general and a congressman would be sharing off-base housing in an occupied Bosnian city should normally be strange enough, but that they'll sleep in rooms above the city's first, and perhaps only, sports bar/brothel was something else entirely.

It was time to dig further.

"I've never heard of any of our pilots being given billeting off base," Major Yantis told SOF. "As for the general or congressman, they have not contacted the Department of Defense for help, and I, therefore, have no knowledge of their arrival or plans. Maybe you should contact another agency within the government."

We tried. But all lines to Langley, Virginia were engaged.

For now, at least, the mystery of the American Club's first guests would have to wait. There were bigger fish to fry. Word had it that the 325th Infantry Airborne Combat Team's Alpha Company, led by Captain Bill Burleson, was on its way from Italy and would arrive in Tuzla within the hour.

We quickly drove to the airbase, just catching the last shuttle bus to the flight line. Only CNN, Associated Press, Reuters and *SOF* were there to watch the arrival; all the other media claiming it was too cold and wet to stand outside and wait for what they believed was going to be another no-show.

The U.S. Army will not be ready-to-take hostages. "Anyone looking to see how far they can push us will be making the biggest mistake of their lives."

Wheels Down, Legs On The Ground

One after another, the gray Air Force C-130s came out of the dark, discharging Alpha Company's 130 elite troops. With both a Swedish army tactical squad and U.S. Army MP team on hand providing security, Alpha Company made its way to a rear staging area before moving to assigned barracks on base. Tomorrow, if the weather held, the 325th's Bravo, Charlie and Echo Companies, as well as D Battery, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment — Europe's only airborne field artillery battery — would arrive and take up positions. Any ideas rebel Serb forces had about kicking some last minute butt before the American presence became too big to deal with were put to rest by our arrival, Lt. Col. Curtis M. Scapparrotti, 3rd Battalion, 325th Infantry Airborne Combat Team commander, told reporters.

It was now on to Zupanja, Croatia, to catch up with Task Force Eagle's muscle — the M1A1s and Bradleys of the 1st Armored Division. With no indication that the warring factions had any intentions of pulling back from their front-line positions or dismantling their checkpoints without some "persuasion," our 70-kilometer drive north to the Sava River from Tuzla followed the confrontation lines for 20-plus hours — southwest to the Croatian coast, north to Zagreb and then east — before we met up with the spearhead armor troop and engineers.

Along the way we passed dozens of UNPROFOR convoys making their way from Central Bosnia and Sarajevo to the Croatian port of Split, signaling the final chapter of the United Nations' biggest peacekeeping disaster. NATO troops, the U.S. Army no exception, were not going to be pushovers or ready-to-take hostages. "Anyone looking to see how far they can push us will be making the biggest mistake of their lives," Captain Thomas Dorame, commander of Alpha Troop of the 1st Cavalry, told *SOF*. "No monkey business and no second chances. We have our orders. I am here with my men to fulfill those orders and will do so. I expect full compliance from all sides with the Dayton Agreement."

Dorame's comments were still ringing in my ears when the BBC reported that a British army Sea King helicopter, carrying wounded children and their mothers from a Tuzla hospital, came under tracer fire just north of Sarajevo, and that an American C-

Bosnia's Hidden Treasures

Briefly delayed by mid-December's snow storm over Bosnia, NATO units arrived in the war-torn land. "This is not a lightly armed force like the U.N. — and it won't be pushed around like the U.N. It will have complete freedom of movement ..." said U.S. Secretary of Defense William J. Perry.

But *complete* freedom of movement is unlikely, for the soil of these Balkan battlefields holds a fantastic number of antipersonnel and antivehicle mines. NATO officials could only guess at the quantity planted during nearly four years of war: 3 to 6 million. U.N. mine-clearing units there stayed busy detecting, deactivating or simply detonating mines and booby traps. Nonetheless, from April '92 to June '95, U.N. forces reportedly suffered 174 incidents, with 204 wounded and 20 killed. And civilian casualties were even higher.

The peace agreement calls for the warring factions to remove their own mines, but that likely will not happen any time soon. Mines, most of which are probably of Yugoslavian manufacture, often were dispersed without any pattern, or in areas that were not recorded on maps. Sometimes they were planted carefully to channel enemy troop movements into kill zones; other times, they were hastily strewn in the low-cost defense of "area denial." NATO troops face a variety of deadly devices.

Stopping or slowing the enemy, channeling his movements, and protecting your own positions while at the same time inflicting death and destruction on the foe has always been a tactical goal. The ability to accomplish this goal without deploying one's own troops is a commander's dream, and dreams can come true. Enter the advent of explosives and land mines. Land mines delay and channel; they harass and kill. But when the conflict is past and the warring parties depart the battlefield the land mines don't. These harbingers of death lie in wait, for the peasant farmer and his plow ... or the peacekeeper.

To understand the mine threat our troops will face in Bosnia we need to examine who was there before us. For decades the area has been under Warsaw Pact control. This fact will be reflected in the types of ordnance and tactics encountered. Soviet military doctrine has long favored the use of mines and booby traps. Compared to the U.S. in this area, Ivan's tactics in laying and recording of mine fields and planting boobytraps has been loose, to say the least. With this the case of a major military power, one can only imagine what the situation in the area has degraded to the past few years. The strife in the Balkans has drawn volunteers and mercs from many countries. Most have seen military service in the armies of Russia, the U.S. and a host of other nations. With them they have brought a plenitude of military experience and tactics, not the least of which have been in the field of mine warfare.

Whether mines are laid by hand or by mechanized methods; whether minefields are carefully recorded or haphazardly emplaced, one fact remains — there will be tens of thousand of these lethal gems totally and absolutely unaccounted for. And if the human factor weren't enough, enter Mother Nature. When the ground freezes some mines may explode from ice pressure, while many others will "lock-up" and not explode even if trod upon. Come the spring thaw and heavy rains, the soil becomes semi-liquid, causing minefields to "migrate." Individual mines may actually move several feet. Their lethality intact, they await a victim.

Land mines come in all sizes and shapes. From the small antipersonnel (AP) mine designed to wound a soldier to the hefty antitank mine designed to kill a massive war machine. The hardest to detect and most often encountered are the AP mines. Designed for various purposes, they may well present the greatest threat.

AP BLAST MINE: One of the most commonly encountered AP mines, the blast type is generally small and difficult to detect. It usually causes severe injury to the person stepping on it. Tactically this makes it a good weapon because it will take two able-bodied troops to evacuate the casualty from the battlefield, thereby getting three-for-one.

NON-BOUNDING AP FRAGMENTATION MINE: Stepping on this mine is like stepping on a frog grenade. The unfortunate victim is usually killed, and those close to him *may* be wounded.

BOUNDING AP FRAGMENTATION NINE Normally buried just below the earth's surface, this mine, usually shaped somewhat like a beer can, is designed to function by trip-wire or direct pressure, or in the case of the Russian OZM 3 may be electrically command-fired. Upon being tripped it bounds up to several feet into the air before exploding. The resulting frog will kill or injure personnel several meters from the blast.

DIRECTED FRAGMENTATION MINE: Imagine scores of 12 gauge shotguns clustered together firing buckshot into a crowd. You now have of an idea of the concept and effect of a directed frog AP mine. Aimed toward an expected troop advance these mines, fired by trip-wire or command-detonated, project hundreds of lethal steel balls or metal squares out in a fanshaped pattern into the ranks of oncoming troops. The U.S. M18AI claymore is one example of this type mine, as is the Russian MON-50, a copy of the claymore.

ANTI-TANK/VEHICLE BLAST TYPE MINE: Normally containing several pounds of high explosive, these mines can range from those which just blow off a track or a wheel, to those that can actually "kill" a tank and everyone in it. Because of their size and relatively easy detection, AT/AV mines are usually booby-trapped.

NATO units are under orders to clear only enough minefields to allow safe patrolling of their designated "zones of separation." In the American sector, that dangerous, tedious work will fall on combat engineer and explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) units such as the 1st AD's 23rd and 40th Engineer Battalions; the 362nd Engineer Company from Fort Bragg, North Carolina; the 41st EOD Detachment from Fort Bliss, Texas; the 61st EOD Detachment from Fort Sill, Oklahoma; and the 546th EOD Control Team from Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The Russian brigade, located in the U.S. sector, reportedly is providing combat engineers as well.

As for mine-clearing operations, they can be tenuous at best. Further hindering these efforts will be numerous non-metallic mines, and even the possibility of "phony" minefields. It can be sort of like spilling a box of tacks on a shag carpet. No matter how well you clean them up, your bare feet will be the final judge.

Mine-removal specialists use high-tech, vehicle-mounted mine detectors as well as the man-packable variety to help locate hidden devices. Eventually a dozen or more explosives-sniffing dogs with handlers will be operating in the American sector, too. According to Pentagon figures, the 1st AD took in 29 mine-plows and 10 mine-rollers attached to the front of M1 tanks used in clearing ops; the Marine Corps provided 30 tank mine-rollers. Countermine equipment also includes launched grapnel hooks that snag mines' trip-wires or antennae as the hooks are winched back, and rocket-propelled linear charges that blast paths through danger areas. And from high above, U.S. satellites transmit navigational data to the GPS equipment used by troops learning the lay of that unfamiliar land.

But despite the technology aiding this peace enforcement, some of the deadly obstacles require brave, keen-eyed specialists to crawl on the ground with a wooden stick: Where terrain or buildings do not permit vehicles to clear mines, some will be rooted out by combat engineers in blast suits, carefully probing small patches of Balkan earth.

— *R.L.S.*

"No monkey business and no second chances. We have our orders. I am here with my men to fulfill those orders and will do so. I expect full compliance from all sides with the Dayton Agreement."

130, on approach to Sarajevo airport, had also come under fire. It was obvious that not everyone had heard Capt. Dorame or knew there was a new dog on the block. They soon would.

Zupanja was exploding with American GIs. Dozens of troop trains and convoys were arriving daily from Germany and the 1st Armored Division's southernmost base in Kaposvar, Hungary. Croat authorities had turned over a number of unused factory sites, collective farms and a former police station and motel complex to elements of the 1st Cavalry, military police of the "Ready First Combat Team," truck drivers and mechanics of the 77th Maintenance Company and combat engineers from Alpha Company of the 16th Engineering Battalion.

Bradley Fighting Vehicles and M1A1 tanks had taken up positions along the road through the town. With no intact bridges linking the Croat and Bosnian sides of the Sava River, a convoy was on the way with the much-awaited pontoon bridge, river barges and patrol craft.

"We are coming in slowly but surely," said Sergeant Major Stephen Walls, U.S. Army 16th Engineering Battalion, the unit charged with preparing the pontoon bridge site. "We expect different challenges along the route that makes life exciting.

"We're here to show everyone how the microcosm of America works," Walls continued. "Just look at us. Ethnic diversity is what we're trying to put across. We all work together and we get the job done. That is the mission. If anyone tries anything with us, it would be a very serious mistake. If we're challenged we will be infantry. If not, we'll be engineers."

1st AD vehicles pull into positions as they road march to the Sava River and wait for completion of the river crossing. Armor and attitude will ensure they are the meanest dog in town.

Chief Foreign Correspondent Mark H. Milstein greeted arriving U.S. forces in Bosnia and will be following their deployment in upcoming issues.

American troops return from war. Within a few years, some complain of mysterious, debilitating ailments. Even as more and more veterans get sick — some to the point of death — U.S. government officials and doctors officially discount claims of a war-related illness. VA hospitals offer little help.

Vietnam and "Agent Orange" — right? No, this time around it's Operation Desert Storm and the "Gulf War Syndrome."

While there are some similarities in these two medical phenomena, there also is at least one major difference: There *might* be a cure for some of the sufferers of the Gulf War Syndrome.

As of this writing, there are approximately 50,000 American veterans of Operation Desert Shield and Storm who are suffering the mystery ailment — or combination of ailments — out of the nearly 550,000 who served in the Kuwaiti Theater of Operations (KTO). Of those, some 39,000 have been discharged and 11,000 are still on active duty.

Officials with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have stated that either 2,400 or 5,000 vets have died in VA hospitals, depending on which number one wishes to believe. Some other Gulf War veterans have died in civilian hospitals; the VA has no numbers available for that group.

The foregoing statistics do not include members of the afflicted veterans' families: Studies indicate that approximately 78% of their spouses and 62% of children are symptomatic, as are even some of their family *pets*.

The Gulf War Syndrome (GWS) — whose existence, as of this writing, officially is denied by the Department of Defense (DoD) and the VA — also affects veterans in other countries that fought the Gulf War. In Great Britain, 3,500 soldiers are suffering from the disease. In Iraq, an estimated 250,000 Iraqi men, women and children are suffering and dying from the syndrome. The Kuwaitis are reporting that increasing numbers of their people are also suffering with the same illness.

Only the French government has acknowledged the disease among its

A squad of U.S. troops in varying levels of MOPP (Mission-Oriented Protective Posture) gear takes shelter in a bunker after reports of an incoming Iraqi SCUD missile. Fortunately, Saddam never ordered salvos of missiles or long-range artillery using chemical/biological warheads: American troops carried what arguably was one of the worst protective masks in the world, the M17A1. It had the potentially fatal flaw of internal filters; the wearer would have to fully *remove* the mask in order to change filters after a few hours in a contaminated area.

Prognosis: PATHOGENS and POLITICS

Is Our Government Ignoring Civilian Treatment Of Gulf War Syndrome?

by Mike Williams and Dana Sue Honish

Reuters

troops. On the basis of information from American scientists, it has ordered that an antibiotic drug, *doxycycline*, be administered to those soldiers manifesting the symptoms.

There is a long list of complaints from U.S. veterans affected by the syndrome: chronic fatigue, loss of endurance, frequent infections, sore throat, coughing, skin rashes, night sweats, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, headaches, memory loss, confusion, vision problems, muscle spasms and cramps, joint pain and loss of mobility, aching muscles, swollen glands, dental problems and depression. In addition, there are the various problems encountered by those suffering from Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Syndrome.

Pick Your Chemical

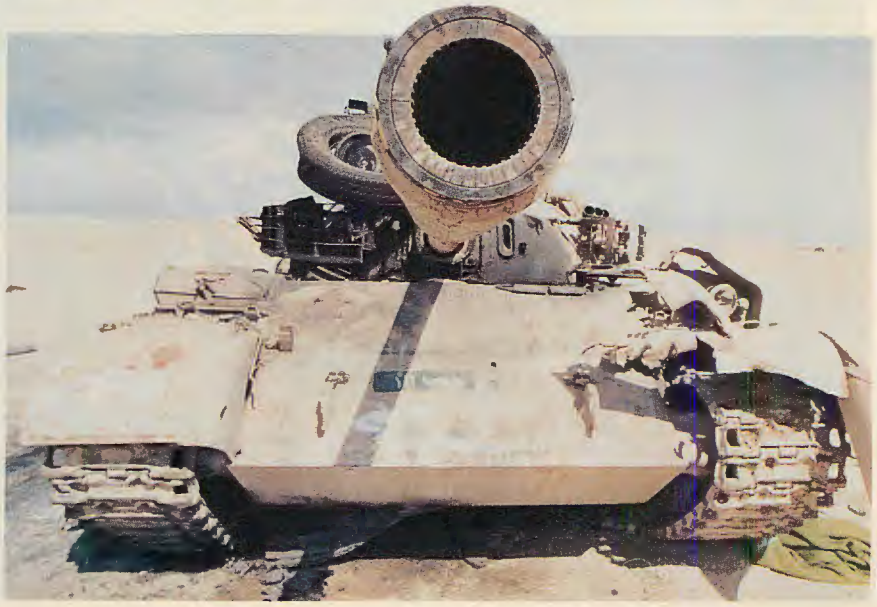
Some comparisons can be made to the shameful, post-Vietnam scandal over Agent Orange, the dioxin-ladened herbicide that was sprayed from 1962-71 across South Vietnam to defoliate the jungle and deny cover to the Viet Cong. (Tens of thousands of Vietnam veterans later would complain to an unsympathetic government of medical, genetic and psychological problems from exposure to the herbicide. It was not until 1984 that a class-action suit brought an out-of-court settlement against several chemical companies.)

Nowadays, Desert Storm vets who show up at VA hospitals complaining of symptoms associated with GWS typically are given only pain killers. True to its pill-pushing nature, the VA also has prescribed anti-depressants to some veterans, telling them it's all in their heads and that their ailments stem from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

There are many theories concerning the source of the syndrome, but unlike an easily diagnosed disease, GWS includes myriad symptoms that result in not one but several different illnesses.

Some civilian physicians believe these medical problems are due to exposure to the variety of chemicals that were known to exist in the KTO: oil-fire pollution; pesticides; fine, blowing sand; airborne particles of depleted uranium from armor-piercing ammunition; and series pills and shots that, although inadequately tested, were issued as preventive measures against Iraqi anthrax, botulism or nerve agents — some of which likely *were* used, or at least unintentionally released. Additionally, there were other instances of sickness among Gulf War troops bitten by desert parasites.

Contributing to widespread fears of an Agent Orange-style cover-up are DoD's steadfast denials that Iraq



SOF

Coalition troops in Desert Storm could have encountered a myriad of potentially harmful substances, including airborne particles of depleted uranium from spent, armor-piercing ammunition — such as the round that destroyed this Iraqi T-55 tank.

used any of its chemical or biological weapons — despite increasing evidence to the contrary. (See "No Chem War In Gulf? Tell It To The Marines," Oct. '95 *SOF*: a first-person account that describes a U.S. vehicle detonating a mustard-gas land mine, and Coalition detections of nerve and biological agents.) Moreover, given the ferocity and thoroughness of the Coalition air campaign, it would seem likely that at least a few unconventional-weapons sites were bombed, which would have released poisons into the environment.

Reuters

Two British security troops of a Royal Air Force regiment wear chemical/biological-protection masks and suits during a missile-attack warning during the Gulf War.

On 12 March 1995, CBS aired its news magazine, "60 Minutes." The topic for the segment was the Gulf War Syndrome and its effects on U.S. veterans and their families. John Deutch, undersecretary of defense and Clinton's nominee for director of the Central Intelligence Agency, was interviewed. CBS newsman Ed Bradley's line of questioning was simple: Were American forces exposed to chemical, biological or radiological weapons during the Persian Gulf War? Deutch said no.

As the questions became increasingly tougher and more specific, the bureaucrat began to sweat heavily; perspiration appeared at his hairline, across his forehead and over his upper lip. Deutch's nervousness became more apparent as his eyes darted back and forth between the interviewer and the TV camera. He denied repeatedly that unconventional weapons ever were used in the Persian Gulf. When Bradley doggedly tried to pin him down as to the "possibility" that those weapons "might" have been used, Deutch mightily dodged and evaded the question.

By then, some members of Congress already had turned the heat up on DoD over the possibility of Iraq's use of unconventional weapons. In May and October 1994, a U.S. Senate committee released investigatory re-

courtesy U.S. Navy

The U.S. Navy also took seriously the threat of Iraq's unconventional weapons. Here, a contamination-survey team on the aircraft carrier USS *John F. Kennedy*, deployed in the Red Sea during Operation Desert Shield, practice with M256-A1 detection kits during a drill.

ports that pointed to outright lies on the part of the Pentagon and some field commanders.

Further, there is documentation that chemical-detection units from the Czech Republic and France detected chemical agents during Desert Storm and immediately reported these detections to U.S. forces. Additionally, there were detections of chemical agents by British army chemical specialists. On top of that, despite government denials of the presence of any Iraqi chemical weapons, U.S. soldiers later were awarded medals for their detections of such agents.

courtesy author

University of Texas (Houston) medical researchers Dr. Garth Nicolson and Dr. Nancy Nicolson believe an especially invasive microorganism might be the cause of some illnesses associated with the Gulf War Syndrome.

One GWS Case

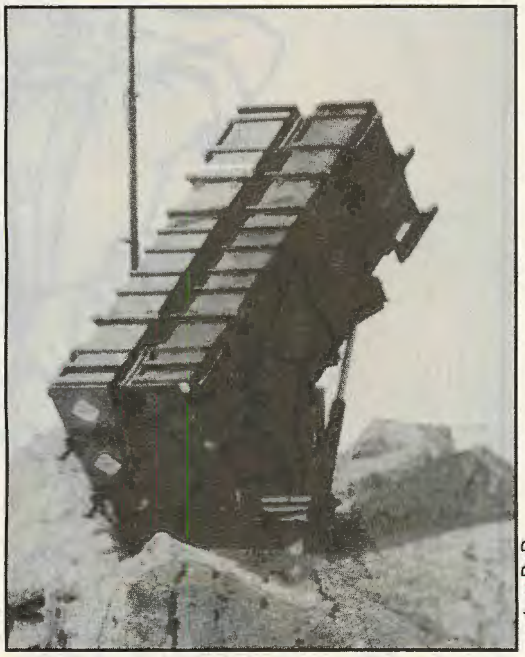
Colonel Herb Smith, then of Army Special Forces, was sent to Saudi Arabia during Desert Shield. According to his medical records, he eventually was exposed to "oil fumes," debris from the destruction of Iraqi ammunition depots and witnessed SCUD missile destruction on a nightly basis with probable exposure to the fallout.

"Following the liberation of Kuwait," the records continue, "the patient states that for six weeks the atmosphere was so dark from burning oil well fires and fumes in Kuwait City, it was not possible to distinguish night from day as the sun and moon were so obscured they could not be distinguished. He would cough up black spit and sneeze out a mucus that looked like black axle grease. His skin was so covered with black smoke and fumes that it was not possible to detect his black watch band on his wrist as it was perfectly camouflaged."

Smith's medical records point to another common problem during Desert Storm: field hygiene. "There was not sufficient water for a shower for 16 days and no water for laundry for 30 days."

In an interview with *Soldier Of Fortune*, Smith recalled, "I became ill with flu-like symptoms while still in Kuwait [May 1991] and have become progressively worse ever since returning to the U.S. in June 1991."

He first was evaluated in June 1991 at Kimbrough Army Hospital, Fort Meade, Maryland. His problems included multiple arthralgia (painful joints), headache, swelling of the hands, legs and feet, a cough and skin rash. Further examinations were performed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., in August 1991. Later that year, Smith was discharged from the Army and issued a DD-214 personnel form, despite the fact that he had an unresolved medical condition.



courtesy DoD

A U.S. Army "Patriot" air-defense missile battery stands guard on Coalition air base in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield. Coalition leaders feared Iraq might launch surface-to-surface missiles, such as its modified SCUD, carrying chemical or biological agents. U.S. leaders maintain such attacks never occurred; some Gulf War veterans, however, believe they did.

Today Smith describes himself as "housebound," and says he becomes "easily confused and disoriented when confronted by a 'difficult' conceptual task."

"In fact, I am not even able to drive a car," he said. "I was forced to become housebound when I finally had to admit that I could not reliably find my way to work or my way home from work."

Smith currently spends every third week being hospitalized for treatments that include plasmapheresis and interferon. His predicament, unfortunately, is not unique among Gulf War vets.

A Ray Of Hope?

Despite the seeming lack of interest so far by the DoD and VA, there are some civilian doctors and researchers who believe that they have made inroads into possible causes and cures for some of the conditions of the Gulf War Syndrome.

One is Dr. Edward Hyman, M.D., of New Orleans, whose successful use of antibiotics on a small number of Gulf War veterans and their families attracted the attention of U.S. Rep. Bob Livingston of Louisiana. And there are other civilian researchers hard at work, too — no thanks to DoD or VA.

Continued on page 78

MINE ... ALL MINE

by James L. Pate

Cartoons by Sarah Gilbert

CURRENT AFFAIRS

QUIZ — This is a test of political science skills: Match wits with government planners and policy analysts.

Which of the following foreign aid programs are bogus? (1) Green Berets digging up land mines in Angola; (2) Teaching economically disadvantaged South African blacks about ethnic hair care; (3) Ensuring the survival, in a war zone, of an obscure breed of endangered Balkan wild pig; (4) None of the above; (5) All of the above.

Pondering the possibilities, one should not assume that the above three programs have nothing in common. All are real, if not valid, and all under scrutiny by the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, chaired by Jesse Helms of North Carolina. Hold on to your wallet, though, because guess who's been footing the bill for such dazzling foreign policy? (Not an official test question; no extra points awarded.)

If you chose answer No. 1, you are correct. And if you chose answer No. 2, you are correct. No. 3, ditto. In the spirit of providing a level playing field on which everyone can act in the affirmative, this test — unlike a college SAT exam — is multi-culturally designed to encompass the abilities of people from all economic and social backgrounds. Whether you're disadvantaged, disenfranchised, "un-retrainable" or just IQ-challenged, you can't go wrong, because there are no wrong answers. (If you were unwilling or unable to choose an answer, phone your local federal building to schedule a civil service exam. Tell them you are "gifted" and apply for management training.)

Of the three aforementioned foreign aid programs, all are real (answer No. 4) in that each is funded, in whole or in part, by either the U.S. State Department or the United Nations ... or both. And all are bogus (answer No. 5) in whole or in part, which is why Uncle Jesse's gumshoes have been sifting paper from Chicago to Fort Bragg to Johannesburg

to figure out what in tarnation is goin' on here.

In the egalitarian spirit of the United Nations, in which the last shall be first and the first shall be last, we shall begin with answer No. 3, the harrowing plight of the cute, curly-tailed Balkan wild pig.

Did 3rd SFG Colonel Dip Into UN Mine-Clearing Fund?

Political Pork In Bosnia

After determined research under daunting field conditions, U.N. scientists have determined two basic culprits are at work in the steadily declining indigenous porcine populations of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The first adverse factor is an unusually high atmospheric concentration of lead in the region, coupled with a loss of habitat to a non-native predator group identified as PETA: People Eating Tasty Animals. A U.N. proposal would spend millions to ensure the survival of the petite porker, this while thousands of U.S. military personnel go in harm's way (or is that "in ham's way") to break up a fight between the Hatfields and the McCoys of Eastern Europe. Be careful. And don't step on the pigs.

This protect-the-Balkan-porker project drew scathing fire — and probably some spittle, too — on the House floor on 7 December, even among the girthiest champions of pork-barrel politics.

Students And Spendthrifts

Which brings us to answer No. 2, and the State Department's Agency for International Development, or AID, not to be confused with a fatal blood disease sometimes contracted while playing a parlor game popular in Washington, D.C., called "Hide the Salami."

While no firm figures are available yet on the U.N. Balkan pig gig, we do know that the Chicago-based Soft Sheen International Foundation won a $500,000 State Department grant under an AID program to teach hair care to poor black South Africans. Poor Asians, poor whites and poor "coloreds," South Africa's racially mixed minorities, were excluded. Soft Sheen set up a series of eight-week cosmetology-and-business management training sessions. After three years, they had graduated five highly skilled cosmological technicians, each the nicely turned

out beneficiary of training that cost $12,500 per week per beautician; all five no doubt eager to poof a doo at the Botswana Beauty Nook.

The Soft Sheen grant "was a joke," said Paul Neifert, who was with the U.S. Embassy staff in South Africa. When he complained that the program was a ludicrous waste of money, Neifert was transferred. The half-million bucks went to a foundation created several months earlier, set up by Soft Sheen Products Inc., a Chicago-based company that is the largest black-owned hair care products company in the United States. Soft Sheen reported $97 million in sales in 1994. The foundation's board includes the company's founder and his son, the company's president.

A State Department inspector general's report said the AID program was abused, to the advantage of African-American businessmen seeking State Department grants, by unfairly excluding women, Hispanics and other minority and special-interest groups slated to benefit from the program. For instance, the report cited an incident in which the mission's deputy director became angry when he learned that a Chinese-American woman ran a company awarded a grant.

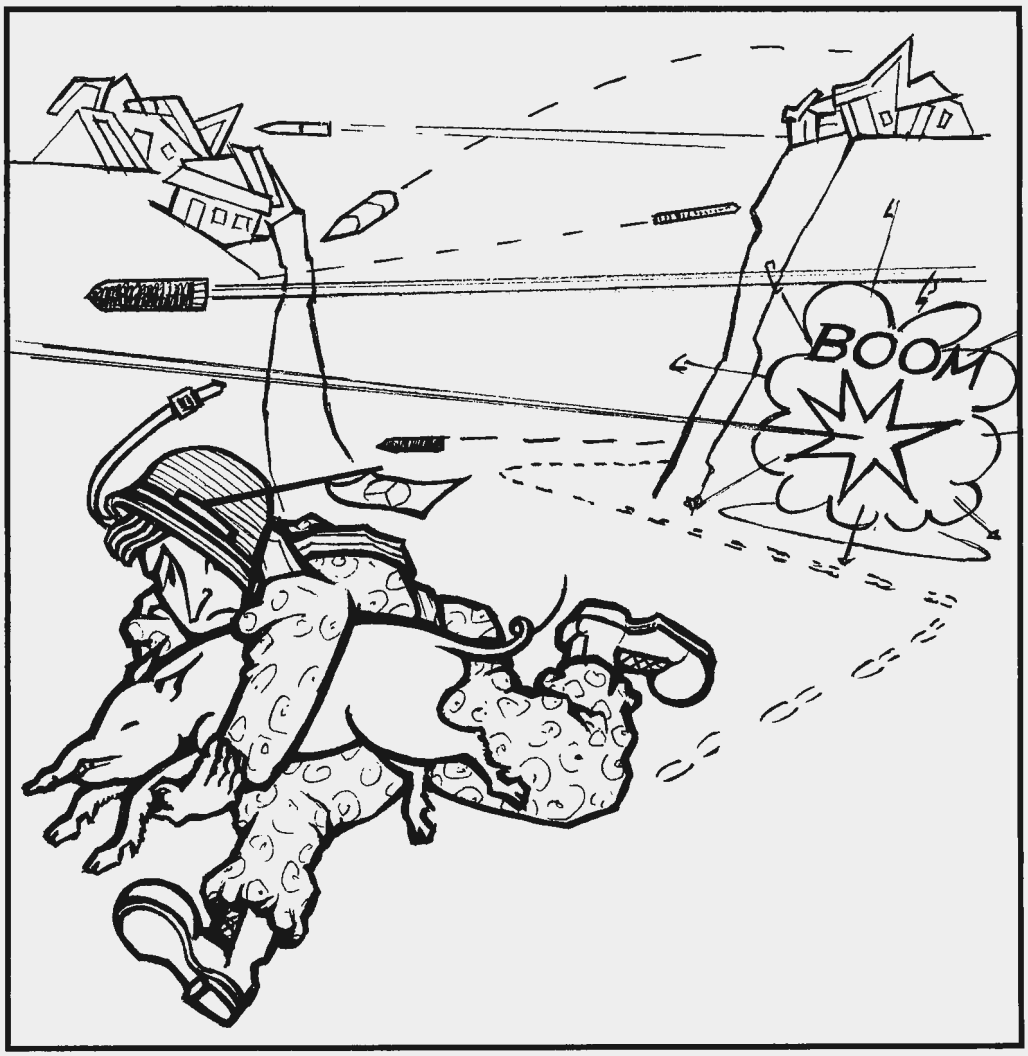
> "We were being asked to use scarce resources to fund a very large and very wealthy company to do, of all things, hair care."

For an extra 10 points, would this example constitute racism or sexism?

"The [embassy] office didn't want to do" the Soft Sheen project, Neifert told the Chicago *Sun-Times*. "We were ordered to do it by the mission director under this new unofficial policy that favored black African-Americans and black South Africans. ... We were being asked to use scarce resources to fund a very large and very wealthy company to do, of all things, hair care."

Forget The Mines, Find The Money

Hair care may be the order of the day in the 3rd Special Forces Group command, where officers have been pulling theirs out. The flap is over a U.N.-State Department joint venture called the Humanitarian De-Mining program, or HDM. The 3rd Group has had to endure the proverbial sigmoidoscopic inspection of Senate investigators and inspector general staff, who are probing the alleged misappropriation of de-mining funds to get a bunch of lean, mean and roguishly handsome snake-eaters qualified as Static Line Jumpmasters (SLJM) while deployed on various missions all over southern Africa.



Part of the problem, no doubt, was in alphabetic confusion; all those government acronyms. Who can keep them straight? Lieutenant Colonel David Schroer had three pots of money to choose from while he and his men were deployed. There was the HDM program, a mix of State Department and U.N. money; Flintlock II, a command-and-control exercise funded by the Joint Chiefs of Staff through the European Command, or EUCOM; and the Joint Combined Exercise for Training program, or JCET.

Schroer's problem, according to *The Resister*, which broke the story, was getting all his deployed troopers in one place — the Manyami Airfield near Harare, Zimbabwe — at the same time, September, for the SLJM Q-course. It was at this point that Schroer allegedly engaged in

what *The Resister* described as some "creative financing." The JCET's funds appropriated for various SF missions around Africa did not provide for the redeployment of troops from their originally authorized mission sites to Harare. And using the government aircraft at Schroer's disposal to round up his far-flung troops might attract attention. So, being the resourceful SF trooper that he is, Schroer allegedly decided to use the HDM budget as a travel kitty for his SLJM Q-course.

Travel — even air travel — is not that simple in Africa. For example, an SF trooper deployed to Rwanda, where $1.8 million in U.S. funds is budgeted for de-mining, does not simply fly a few hundred miles south to get to Zimbabwe on a commercial flight. No, he must fly to Belgium, then back to South Africa and finally to Harare. The air fares become enormous. Multiply that enormity by 18 soldiers, scattered around in places like Rwanda, Angola and Namibia, and it's easy to figure how Schroer's air ticket tab got a little steep.

Schroer allegedly chose the State Department's HDM funds in Zimbabwe from which to finance air fare for his SLJM Q-course. According to *The Resister*, he had a telefax sent to the U.S. Embassy ordering that the HDM money be used to buy commercial air tickets for his JCET-funded soldiers to get to Harare and back to their original deployment sites. Schroer's telefax specifically directed that the Army liaison officer at the U.S. Embassy in Zimbabwe, Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Odom, not be advised of this funding diversion.

Of all the darn luck. For 10 extra points, guess who happened to be standing next to the U.S. Embassy fax machine in Harare when Schroer's message came in? If you guessed Odom, you have potential aptitude for work as a Senate Foreign Relations Committee investigator.

As these investigators, and others from the Pentagon IG's office, sifted through thousands of documents at Fort Bragg, Schroer was packing to go TDY to the Command and General Staff College. Apparently he's one of those guys who packs at the last minute. That might explain how nine Gateway computers bought with State Department de-mining funds to give to host nations in Africa were found stashed in the supply room at 3rd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group.

The computers, each with its own power generator, is specifically configured for de-mining problems. This includes satellite photo interpretation hardware, mapping software, minefield plot sheets and U.N.-generated questionnaires to use in the field. All nine computers were supposed to be left in the country in which they were used. But only one of the nine units was taken to Africa, and it was returned to Bragg, where the other eight had remained.

Senate investigators are interested in other budgetary irregularities. The troops under Schroer's command in Africa were funded for per diem pay of $175 per day per man. But no one got per diem pay, except two men who served as an advance party for the SLJM Q-course in Zimbabwe. The budget included funds to rent eight four-wheel-drive trucks, but Schroer rented eight less expensive two-wheel-drive vehicles. And, according to one congressional investigator, Schroer allegedly combined the budget monies administered by two subordinate officers, administered the money as he chose and ordered the two to not discuss their budgets with the State Department.

Does this kind of financial finagling go on often in foreign aid programs, I asked my Capitol Hill source, who requested anonymity. He smiled and shook his head from side to side.

"I don't think I can answer that question with absolute fairness, and certainly not with absolute authority," he said, smiling again. "But I would suggest to you that there is a phrase in the military, while not commonly used in this context, that would certainly apply. That is, 'Don't ask; don't tell.'"

The Serious Side Of Mines

When the United Nations Conference on Landmines ended its three-day meeting in July in Geneva, the U.N. found itself far short of the $75 million in pledges it hoped to obtain. The meeting included representatives from 97 nations, 30 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and 16 separate U.N. entities.

About $20 million was promised to the U.N. Mine Clearance Trust Fund, more than 60% of that figure pledged by the United States. The U.S. promised $6 million for the U.N. general de-mining fund, with an additional $6.5 million earmarked for mine-clearing operations already underway in Angola. Other major contributors included Japan and the European Union.

The U.N. had said the $75 million pledge goal would have enabled it to double U.N. mine-clearing operations in Asia, Africa and Central America. Undersecretary General Peter Hansen acknowledged that even if the $75 million target had been obtained, the U.N. would still be "fighting a losing battle" to clear the approximately 100 million mines buried in 64 countries. The problem, he said, is that new mines are being sewn at a rate much faster than the old ones are being uncovered and deactivated.

In 1993, the U.N. spent about $67 million to remove 100,000 mines, while an estimated 2.5 million new mines were laid. The International Committee of the Red Cross estimates that 500 to 800 people worldwide are killed each month by landmines, and another 2,000 are injured. The U.N. estimates that the removal of all known mines would cost about $33 billion.

Overshadowing the conference was a call by the Red Cross and all other NGOs attending for a total ban on the use of mines. That movement was endorsed by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and by the member nations of Belgium, Sweden and Norway. While most governments insist that mining is an essential and economic means of national defense, the U.N. goal is to obtain a total ban on the use of mines, modeled after its conference at which chemical weapons were outlawed.

There seems to be little doubt that, while the former Soviet Union and other once-Communist governments are responsible for the lion's share of mines abandoned around the globe, it will be old Uncle Sugar who gets stuck with much of the clean-up cost. —*JLP*

Ask Us No Questions,

Congressional Weaver-Waco Hearings Fall Far Short

by James L. Pate

Recounting without accounting is worthless. The reluctant recounting of facts is without value unless there is an honest accounting of deeds and misdeeds. The former would characterize the separate United States Congressional hearings this fall on the deadly federal botches in Waco, Texas, and Naples, Idaho. While producing a few new facts on the most tragic law enforcement disasters in our nation's history, congressional hearings have yet to result in any guilty parties being punished.

If Congress continues to be suckered by the federal law enforcement bureaucracy's transparent posturing, flimsy excuses and arrogant lies, we'll all eventually have hell to pay.

For example, FBI Director Louis Freeh called a news conference in reference to U.S. Senator Arlen Specter's hearings on the Randy Weaver case to announce a "new" policy on the use of deadly force. In reality it was a restatement of the policy that has existed throughout local, state and federal law enforcement for decades: Use of deadly force is OK only when the agent or officer has good reason to believe that the actions of a suspect are an imminent threat to his life or safety, or the life or well being of another person.

President Bill Clinton even got in on the act, with the White House making much of the "new" policy. The implication was that the "old" policy was inadequate and the deficiency had somehow contributed to the shooting death of Vicki Weaver, the unarmed woman with babe in arms, who had committed no crime and was threatening no one, yet was gunned down by an FBI sniper named Lon Horiuchi.

The reality is that the supposedly "new" policy on deadly force is the same policy that was in effect in August 1992, when Mrs. Weaver was fatally shot without provocation. The fact is that the shoot-any-adult-on-sight rules of engagement set forth by FBI Special Agent Dick Rogers, commander of the Hostage Rescue Team (HRT), were not only illegal, but unconstitutional. And testimony brought forth by Senator Arlen Specter's subcommittee hearing confirmed that every sniper team surrounding the Weaver cabin knew Rogers' rules of engagement were illegal and chose to ignore them: Every sniper team, that is, except that of Horiuchi and his spotter, FBI Special Agent Dale Monroe.

Jerry Hoefer/Sipa

When the Branch Davidian compound erupted into a fireball after weeks of federal siege, it forced on the American consciousness a foreboding that something was terribly wrong. Will wrongs never redressed be allowed to remain as catalysts for further wrongs?

So far, six FBI agents (but not Horiuchi or Monroe) have been suspended with pay in fallout from the Weaver tragedy, under investigation on a variety of allegations that include obstruction of justice, perjury, making false statements, shredding documents and all the other dirty little deeds that constitute a full-blown cover-up.

One of the documents apparently shredded was a line-of-site report by Horiuchi. That document apparently confirmed what already is apparent from other evidence — that Horiuchi lied when he said he was leading Kevin Harris before squeezing off the second and fatal shots — and that he definitely saw the mother, babe in arms, standing in the kitchen door of the family's rustic cabin. There is significant evidence, including statements from FBI agents to independent witnesses, indicating that Horiuchi shot Vicki Weaver deliberately. There is also reliable circumstantial evidence that the first shot fired, which hit Randy Weaver, was fired by Monroe, not Horiuchi. In another act of what is becoming an FBI routine to destroy or hide evidence (such as the missing front door from Waco) the Weaver's shed in which that first round impacted was carted off by agents and hasn't been seen since.

Another example of this duplicitous bait-and-switch damage control was the testimony by John Magaw, Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and that of Ron Noble, U.S. Treasury Undersecretary for Enforcement. In testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by Utah's Orrin Hatch, Magaw and Noble made much of announcing that, from now on, any ATF operation approaching the scope and size of the Waco raid will be closely monitored and controlled by headquarters. The obvious intent here was to place blame on the local raid commanders, Phil Chojnacki and Chuck Sarabyn, implying that they made their decisions throughout the Branch Davidian investigation without consulting their supervisors in Washington.

We'll Tell You No Lies

Nothing could be further from the truth, however. Numerous documents and ample testimony of public record indicate that the Waco investigation was not only being closely monitored by ATF headquarters, it was reopened as a direct order from headquarters. According to the testimony of the ATF undercover agent in Waco, Robert Rodriguez, he came under intense pressure from ATF headquarters to go ahead with the raid, even though he advised them that the investigation had not progressed far enough yet.

One of the biggest failures of congressional hearings has been not connecting the tragedies of Idaho and Waco. While generally conceding wrongdoing in the former case, federal law enforcement continues to insist that it bears no fault in the latter. Yet the two cases are only eight months apart, and the atrocities committed involve many of the same agents, particularly concerning the participation of the FBI hostage rescue team (HRT).

Another mystery is the apparent reluctance of Hatch to take off the gloves with federal law enforcement. A staunch Second Amendment advocate when he came to Congress, Hatch has apparently been compromised by the FBI, evolving into a fawning apologist for even blatant acts of abuse. Specter had to fight Hatch behind closed doors to hold hearings on Randy Weaver. Hatch chaired the Waco hearings in the Senate, but all he did was provide a forum for bureaucrats to come in and parrot the administration's party line: We're sorry and we won't do it again. Plenty of symbolism, very little substance; a typical, government-orchestrated dog-and-pony damage-control show.

Consequently, the public never got to hear any of the real issues. And that's because few real questions were asked. It would have been much more effective to subpoena witnesses, ask them the tough questions and force them to take the Fifth Amendment — then let a special prosecutor take over from there and put the recalcitrant witnesses in front of a grand jury.

Hatch threw away a good opportunity. He *could* have used the Senate hearings on Waco to analyze the failures of the House hearings this summer, and fill in some of the blanks.

AP/Wide World

Randy Weaver's plywood mountain shack — characterized as a "bunker" in early FBI press releases —the site where illegal rules of engagement lead FBI to shoot an unarmed mother with babe in arms. Survivors have received million-dollar settlement from government — but will guilty parties be punished?

While partisan bickering has held up release of the House report on the Waco hearings, the full Senate report on Weaver is proceeding apace, and may actually be on the street prior to the House report on Waco. By all accounts, the Senate report on Weaver is expected to be scathing in regard to government conduct. The only FBI person to come out unscathed, one source said, will be Director Louis Freeh, who admitted that the FBI made horrible errors at both Ruby Ridge and Waco.

Among the changes in the FBI to result from the Waco and Weaver tragedies, according to William J. Esposito, assistant director of the FBI's Criminal Investigative Division, are an increase in the HRT's size from 50 to 91 members. The number of negotiators has risen from two to five, with an additional 40 negotiators scattered across the United States available for short-fuse requirements. Negotiators now will supposedly have an equal status with the tactical agents in the resolution of standoffs or conflicts. The HRT will be augmented by nine enhanced FBI SWAT units made up of 355 special agents. Another 650 agents belonging to conventional FBI SWAT units will also be made available. The nine specialty SWAT teams have received upgraded equipment, and their required training has been increased from two to three days per month. The FBI's SWAT training program will now come under the direct supervision of the HRT commander, and will train jointly with the HRT in simulated hostage-barricade situations.

Supervisory Special Agent Kenneth V. Lanning, of the FBI's Behavioral Science Unit, testified that the FBI and ATF failed miserably in their effort to understand the mind set of the Davidians, and the use of the term "cult" was an inflammatory vilification that hindered that understanding.

Clinton R. Van Zandt, a retired FBI Supervisory Special Agent, gave some of the most damning testimony from a government witness. "I was asked by FBI headquarters to travel to Waco three weeks into the situation... to be the bureau's negotiation coordinator, replacing the current negotiator at Waco, who was leaving to deliver a speech overseas," Van Zandt testified. "I initially protested this assignment. I was no longer assigned to the negotiations program and I did not want to inherit a three-week-old situation in which decisions had been made for which I had no voice. Decisions that I believe influenced the

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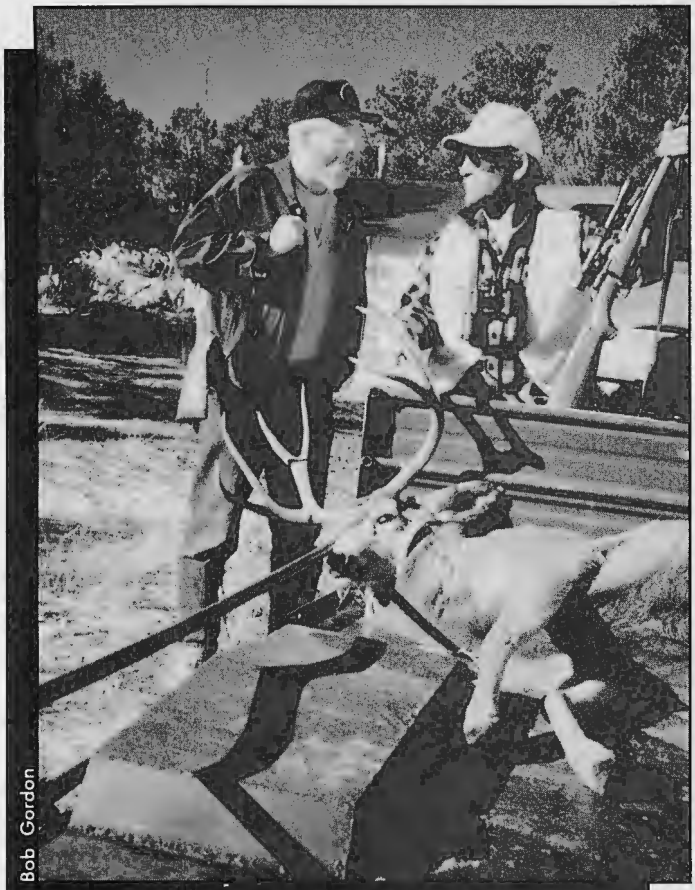


Bob Gordon

Bob Brown, at left with .45-70 Co-Pilot, and Mike Johnson discuss Johnson's four-point mulie, one of only two deer harvested this trip.

THE WAY THE ESCALANTE BREAKS

SOF Hunts The High Country

by John Hogan **Photos: SOF Staff**

The first combined deer and elk season was about to open and *SOF* publisher Bob Brown opined that at least some of the big bull elk inhabiting the Colorado high country badly needed thinning. Meshing the gears on such an enterprise that involves many participants means tending to many details: Besides spending ungodly amounts of money on transportation, supplies, weapons, licenses and ammunition, it is also necessary to check zero on rifles that either were new or had not been fired since last season. Using the public range near Rifle, Colorado, turned out to be an all-day event, as there were dozens of hunters from southern California and eastern New York clogging the firing line who were incapable of hitting a bull in the butt with a bass fiddle. Some of them went through a box or more of ammo trying to put a hole in a two-foot-square target at 100 yards.

Bob took three shots with his Steyr .308 that all touched and then got out the Alaskan Co-Pilot takedown .45-70 Marlin that he'd just gotten from Wild West guns in Anchorage. This is a short, handy carbine with a dull chrome finish, mounting an Aimpoint sight. The 16-inch barrel had been ported to take some of the buck out of this young mule, and we were absolutely amazed not only by the accuracy, but also by the lack of felt recoil: It turned out to be as tame and pleasant to shoot as a .410 shotgun.

After we hunted the scrub oak of the plateaus above the Colorado River for a few days, Bob wouldn't carry anything else. Unfortunately, we just didn't get a shot. Elk were visible but we couldn't get close enough to take the bulls with a clean shot. A little snow might have helped, but it was warm and dry during that first season of 1995. We finally called it quits and drove over the Escalante Breaks to meet the other 17 or so guys who would be at Brown's an-

Even skunked, any day's hunting can be a good day's hunting if you come back to a camp with hot chow and good company. Weary hunters watch Bill Jones rustle up a savory stew in his South African mealy meal kettle. Inset: HeaterMeals provided a quick and hot lunch for (left to right) Mark Westrom of ArmaLite, Bob Gordon, author, Jim Fotis of LEAA.

nual hunting camp for the second combined Colorado deer-and-elk rifle season.

Escalante Canyon was discovered by a Spanish priest in 1776. It is mostly dusty red dirt road and steep cliffs but there are a few places leading out of the canyon that put you on top of the high plateaus, some of the best elk terrain in the country.

Among the first at Brown's camp were Walt and Ed, two retired New York City detectives who have become famous in *SOF* circles for their expensive and elaborate gear. It was a good thing they arrived several days before the season because it took them that long to unload all their equipment and get set up. Their tent is not any ordinary tent: It was custom made to Ed's specifications and features its own welcome mat and a doorbell. Walt and Ed take their hunting seriously. Their truck license plate reads "762 NATO."

When Steve and Jonesy, the camp cook, arrived they began laying out the cooking equipment and organizing less elaborate tents for the rest of the hunters. The interests of hygiene were served by a slit trench scooped out with a neighbor's backhoe, plus a heavy log rail. In honor of Jim, a former Marine held as a POW for six-and-a-half years in Vietnam, we named the latrine the "Jane Fonda Memorial Shitter."

Before the rest of the hunting party arrived, we did an aerial recon of the plateau in a search pattern all the way up to 10,000-foot snow-capped peaks: We saw nothing but Herefords. It was still too warm for the elk to be down very low, and if they had come down they would have been hard to spot in the cedar breaks. But from the air we at least got a better feel for the terrain. Back on the ground, we took the maps that I marked in the air and Brown and I used the altimeters on our Casio watches to pinpoint our positions up on the plateau. The watches also include an accurate compass that will store position information to make navigation easier. We had gotten the watches before a trip to Alaska. Both Brown and I have used them in Bosnia as well as on bear and elk hunting trips.

Bob Gordon and Bill Jones (right, in cook's [heh, heh] "whites") take time between hunting forays to do some T&E on new ArmaLite AR-10.

The back of Ed and Walt's hunting rig leaves no doubt as to their interests and Second Amendment opinions.

While we waited for the weather to change, Jonesy laid out some interesting meals, which he cooked in a pair of large black kettles. The smaller of the two kettles Jones had retrieved from South Africa, where black South Africans cook their mealy meal in them. Jones uses them for his for stews and such. Something of a Mountain Man, or maybe just a throwback, Jones hunts with a flintlock and favors sleeping on the ground in a bedroll rather than using a sleeping bag in a tent.

With the temperate weather, Jones was enjoying sacking-out under the stars until Brown hung his dayglo plastic, battery-powered skeleton from the ridge pole outside the main tent. Such simple pleasures make Brown deliriously happy: Every time the wind blew the skeleton would activate. The eyes lit up, the jaw chattered, the bones shook and a speaker in the skull laughed hideously. Jones, who carries a Smith and Wesson .44, had to be periodically restrained from shooting the head off the thing. If someone would have bet him he wouldn't do it, Jones surely would have permanently silenced that skeleton.

Mark Westrom, honcho of the new ArmaLite company, brought one of his new AR-10 rifles with him to the camp (see "Blast From The Past," February '95). An enlarged clone of

Continued on page 82

Host Bob Brown, right, christens and sanctifies the Jane Fonda Memorial Shitter.

Why We Can't Find The UNABOMBER

Text & Photos by
Richard Sherrow

Turf, Tragedy, and Teamwork

For the past 17 years, a bizarre bomber has been driving law enforcement officials and bomb squads throughout America to the point of distraction. While most bombings are random acts of violence, every so often a particularly frightening type pops up: the work of a serial bomber.

This villain is not content with setting off a bomb or two. Rather, he becomes consumed with repetition, his workmanship often improving with experience. Just as no two bombs are exactly alike, neither are any two bombers. Even within the twisted world of the serial bomber, the UNABOMBer stands out as an enigma. From the onset, the UNABOMB case has never fit into the mold. Since first being recognized as a serial bomber in May 1978 the UNABOMBer has been unlike any other.

His modus operandi has blown gaping holes in many pre-conceived notions of how a serial bomber operates, and like a specter, it has made him as hard to catch as a puff of smoke. Unlike past serial bombers in America, the UNABOMBer has remained in the shadows. He didn't use the telephone to make bomb threats to warn his intended (or, in some cases, unintended) victims. Unlike most serial bombers, he wasn't content with playing in his own backyard. Rather, he bounced around the country like a rubber ball, leaving ghastly havoc in his wake. Hopscotching from state to state, he waged his campaign of terror in a kind of crazy-quilt non-pattern: from Illinois to Utah to Tennessee to California; from Washington State to Michigan — then skipping back to Utah. There was never a discernable pattern: sometimes three days between bombings, sometimes *three years*. For law enforcement this was not just frustrating, it was maddening. While local cops and feds alike burned the midnight oil trying to figure out who he was, not to mention what his next move would be, this elusive terrorist simply continued to toil over his next infernal machine.

In the wonderful world of acronyms, the FBI has earned its own niche with such formed words as UNSUB, for UNknown SUBject, and the now infamous UNABOMB. Originally, the acronym was UNABOM, which the FBI said stood for UNited Airlines BOMber. Lately, the media and even possibly the FBI, has changed it to read UNABOMB, said to stand for UNiversity/Airline BOMBer. Whatever the case, he's here and he kills!

The first step in apprehending any serial criminal, be it a murderer or a bomber, begins with recognizing certain traits and characteristics of physical evidence that are interlinked with separate but similar crimes. These clues will begin to take shape in the form of a "signature" that becomes evident in certain styles of behavior and/or similarities in physical evidence. In the UNABOMB case we saw both. Most recognizable was the "signature" found in the remains of his bombs. While he evolved in his use of raw materials, he maintained certain unique bomb-building traits which screamed to investigators "I'm baa-aack!"

The Bombings

While we may never know for sure just how many explosions around the country have been the work of the UNABOMBer, there are at least 16 that we are sure of. His explosive

Typical injuries suffered by victim upon opening booby-trapped package that contained small pipe bomb (not a victim of the UNABOMBer).

rampage has officially been traced back to 25 May 1978 and it continues to this day.

• 25 May 1978: A package addressed to the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute of Troy, New York is discovered in a parking lot at the University of Chicago. While being opened by the campus police, the device explodes, slightly injuring an officer. Examination of the remains reveals that the device was a smokeless-powder-filled pipe bomb, which utilized a rubber-band-triggered booby trap.

• 9 May 1979: One person is injured when a bomb explodes in the engineering building on the campus of Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. The device, concealed in a cigar box, was constructed using a pipe containing smokeless powder, flashlight batteries and improvised igniters. Again, it was booby-trapped, this time using a simple homemade loop switch.

• 15 November 1979: As American Airlines Flight 444 wings its way from Chicago to Washington, D.C., the plane is shaken by an explosion in the baggage compartment, forcing an emergency landing at Washington's Dulles Airport. Miraculously, no lives were lost, with only 12 passengers being treated for smoke inhalation. Analysis of the bomb debris revealed that a metal can containing smokeless powder had been concealed in a paper-wrapped wooden box shipped as U.S. Mail. The device was initiated by a household barometer, which had been modified to act as a barometric altimeter switch. This bomb also incorporated improvised igniters and was booby-trapped.

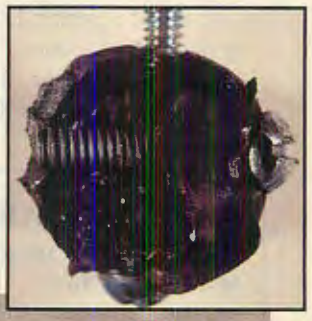
• 10 June 1980: Seven months later, United Airlines president Percy Wood is seriously injured at his home in Lake Forest, Ill., when a booby-trapped book explodes as he opens it. The book, titled *Ice Brothers*, was mailed to the victim and contained yet another smokeless-powder pipe bomb. This time it was booby trapped by *two* loop switches.

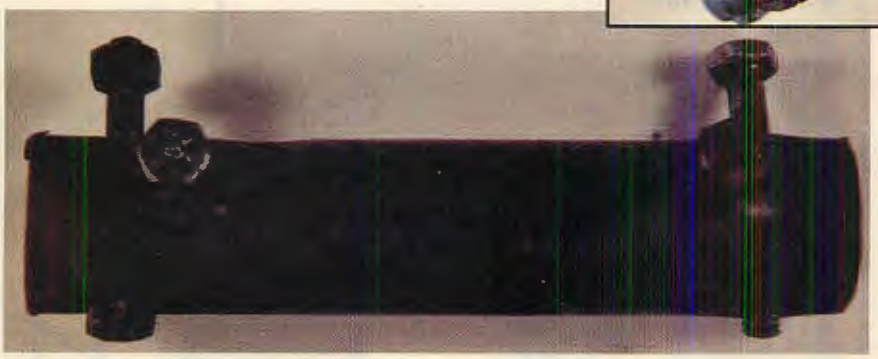
• 8 October 1981: At the University of Utah College of Business, a suspicious package is rendered safe by the bomb squad. Inside is a booby-trapped smokeless-powder pipe bomb, but this time there is an added surprise: a container of gasoline!

• 5 May 1982: While opening a package addressed to a professor at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., a secretary is severely wounded by the blast of a booby-trapped pipe bomb. Mailed from Salt Lake City on 23 April, the package arrived at Pennsylvania State University, from where it was forwarded to Vanderbilt. The smokeless-powder filled device employs a crude rubber-band-driven slip switch, and is similar in construction to previous improvised explosive devices attributed to the UNABOMBer.

• 2 July 1982: An explosion rocks the Mathematics Building at the University of California at Berkeley, seriously injuring Dr. Diogenes Anglakos, a professor of electrical engineering and computer science, who opened the booby-trapped package. Inside was yet another smokeless-powder pipe bomb, again accompanied by a container of gasoline and triggered by a loop firing switch.

• 8 May 1985: After nearly three years of quiet, a potentially lethal surprise package arrives at the Boeing Aircraft Fabrication Division in Auburn, Wash. The paper-wrapped wooden box concealed yet another UNABOMB special. This time, however, the bomb didn't go off. It was rendered safe and examined. Again it was a pipe bomb, booby-trapped by a spring-actuated wooden "pop-up" switch. Now, however, laboratory analysis revealed that instead of the standard smokeless powder of previous bombs, this one was fueled by a more powerful mixture of ammonium





Copycat UNABOMB device found in LaRay, New York, on 25 August 1988. Instead of cross pins and epoxy, copycat used machine screws to retain end plugs. (Inset) End view of another copycat bomb from same scenario, after having been hit by EOD dearmer slug.

nitrate and aluminum powder (AN/AL). Our old nemesis was back and he was evolving.

• 15 May 1985: Three days later, the same Mathematics Building at UCAL-Berkeley that was bombed in 1982 is again shaken by a blast. This time graduate student John Hauser is maimed after disturbing what appeared to be a plastic check-file box left on a table in the student computer room. Examination of the debris showed the device to be another pipe bomb of the style unique to the UNABOMB case. Again the bomb utilized "D" cell flashlight batteries, a telltale wooden frame, the old standby loop switch, and his newly-favored explosive mix of AN/AL.

• 15 November 1985: Another package is mailed to the Ann Arbor residence of a psychology professor at the University of Michigan. A research assistant, opening what seemed to be a manuscript, is seriously injured by UNABOMB number 10. Similar in design to past bombs, this device also contained AN/AL, and was functioned by means of a spring-loaded wooden trap-door mechanism.

• 11 December 1985: Hugh Scrutton, owner of the Rentech Company, a computer rental center in Sacramento, Calif., finds what appears to be a pair of foot-long pieces of wooden two-by-fours, with four nails protruding from the top, near the back door of his business. Thinking it could be a tire hazard, Scrutton bends down to pick it up. He is killed when fragments of wood and metal tear through his body. UNABOMBer has finally taken a life! The 10-inch long, 1-1/4-inch diameter AN/AL pipe bomb had been concealed within the hollowed-out two-by-fours and exploded when the top board was lifted.

Exemplar of UNABOMBer's "two-by-four" booby trap device, used on 11 December 1985 and 27 February 1987: Disguised as an intentional road hazard, it was UNABOMBer's first infernal device to kill.

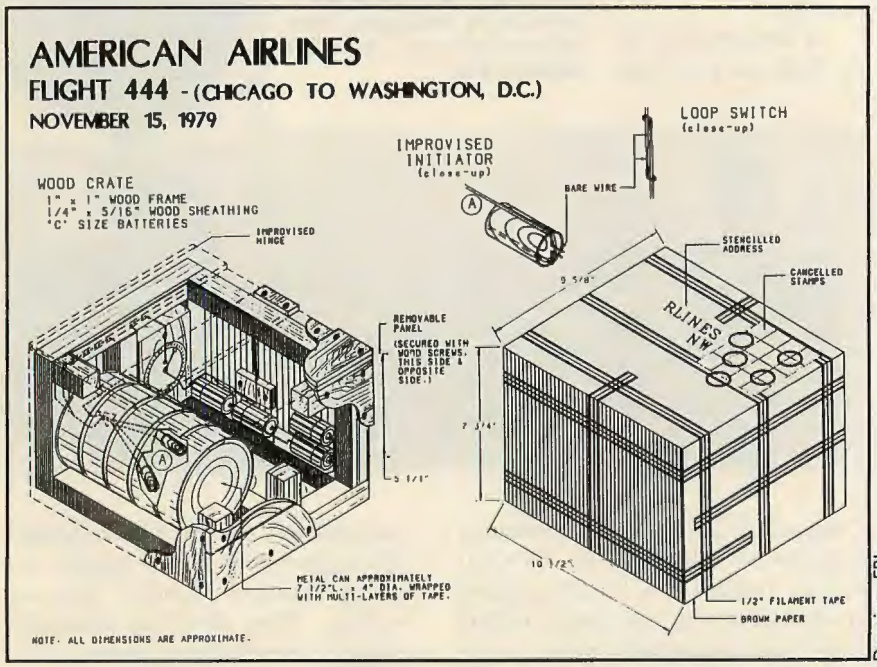
• 27 February 1987: The owner of the Caams Computer Store in Salt Lake City is injured in the store parking lot when he kicks aside a pair of wooden two-by-fours with nails protruding from the top. This device was a slightly larger version of the bomb that exploded on December 11th in Sacramento.

• 22 June 1993: In Tiburon, Calif., a package mailed on 18 June from Sacramento to the home of a geneticist in this Northern California town explodes as he opens it. Severely injured, he becomes still another victim of the infamous UNABOMBer.

• 24 June 1993: David Gelernter, a professor and computer scientist at Yale University in New Haven, Conn., suffers serious wounds when he opens a parcel mailed to his office. As with the bomb that exploded in Tiburon, California two days earlier, this package was also mailed from Sacramento on 18 June. As if to twist the knife, in May, 1995, Professor Gelernter received a letter suspected to be from the elusive bomber. In part, the letter read "People with advanced degrees aren't as smart as they think they are. If you'd had any brains you would have realized that there are a lot of people out there who resent bitterly the way techno-nerds like you are changing the world and you wouldn't have been dumb enough to open an unexpected package from an unknown source." Ironically, the return address was Ninth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. — *the headquarters of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.*

• 10 December 1994: Thomas Mosser, the executive vice-president of the advertising firm of Young & Rubicam, Inc., is killed in a violent explosion while opening the day's mail in the kitchen of his North Caldwell, N.J., home.

• 24 April 1995: California Forestry Association President Gilbert Murray dies in a bomb blast that tears through the offices of the Sacramento-based lobbying group. The shoe-box-



Drawing: FBI

One of the early works of the UNABOMBer was this device that exploded on American Flight 444 on 15 November 1979. A signature of his work has been such laboriously hand-made devices, utilizing few off-the-shelf components.

shoe-box-sized bomb, delivered in that day's mail, exploded as Murray opened it. As others before it, this device bore the telltale trademark of the UNABOMBer.

The Investigation

The major players in the UNABOMB investigation became — in no particular order — the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the U.S. Postal Service — at least in the eyes of the politicians and media. When any big case breaks, there is a tendency on the part of the feds, politicians and media to ignore or downplay the key role played by local law enforcement. Without these cops on the street we would be nearly back at square one.

Copycat scratched letters "FC" on pipe bomb casing, indicating bomb was work of an EOD insider, as there had been no public disclosure of this eccentric trait of the UNABOMBer.

The bottom line of any criminal investigation is to catch the bad guy. To do so tests the mettle of all involved. In the case of murder there is always a heightened sense of urgency, and never is this more evident than in cases of those whose chosen instruments of death are explosives. When the target is a serial bomber, this urgency takes on a fever pitch.

Regardless of how skilled the investigator, there are always three basic keys needed to unlock the mysteries of any crime. They are, in no particular order: information, evidence and luck. In the UNABOMB case, information is sketchy and Lady Luck has taken a holiday. This leaves the evidence. Good solid physical evidence is invaluable in determining the *how* of a crime. It will also go a long way in solving the *why*, and most importantly, identifying the *who*.

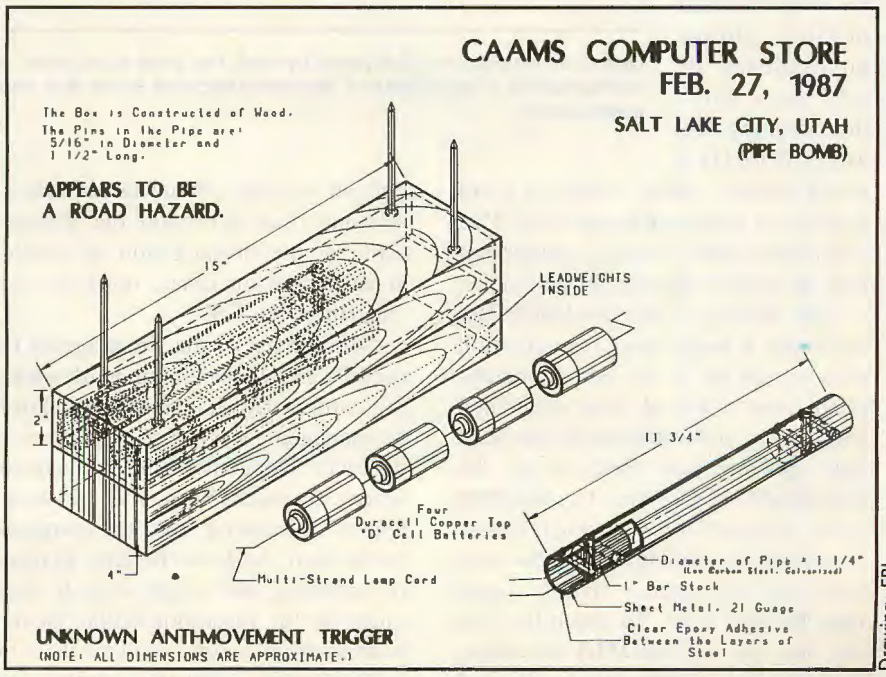
Contrary to popular assumption, explosions and fires do not destroy all traces of a crime. These traces remain and become invaluable physical evidence. In the case of the UNABOMB remains, we found ourselves sitting on a veritable bonanza of physical evidence.

As the bits and pieces were poured over by bomb techs, lab techs, and investigators, a pattern began to emerge. We began to see what he did and how he did it. We got a feeling of how he thought and worked, but were still no closer to who he was or where he would strike next.

Exactly what makes the UNABOMB devices stand out like a red flag? For one thing, it's a marked absence of sophisticated components. For example, instead of using readily available model rocket igniters or electric matches for his initiators, he literally "rolls his own" from pieces of wood and wire. Instead of using off-the-shelf pipe nipples and end caps he uses a time and labor consuming method of sealing the ends of his pipe bombs by means of metal plugs held in place by a series of steel cross pins. He uses wood in the construction of all of his devices. In the case of the "two-by-four" booby traps, he went so far as to chisel out the cavities that held the pipe bomb and batteries. His soldering skills, to say the least, leave a lot to be desired.

Fieri Curavit?

Another unique "signature" was this bomb maker's penchant for engraving the letters "FC" into parts of his pipe bombs likely to survive an explosion. Since no one could figure out what the meaning of these cryptic letters could be, and since they added to the frustration of the puzzle, ATF chemist Rick Strobel was fond of saying that "FC" may well stand for "Fuck Chemists." "FC" is unique to the UNABOMB case, and its significance is still not understood, although *SOF* surmises it may possibly be in the context of the Latin abbreviation *FC*, short for *Fieri Curavit* (*Caused To be Made*) as is added to one's signature — like a child crossing his fingers when making a spurious promise — to annul the signature. When Hungarian Cardinal Mindszenty signed under duress his "confession" of crimes against the communist state while their prisoner in the mid-1950s, the communists displayed his signed confession with the "FC" — and the world immediately knew his emi-



UNABOMBer's "two-by-four" bomb, constructed to appear as an improvised road hazard, was built inside chiseled-out cavity, triggered by an undetermined antimovement mechanism.

nence had been forced to sign.

Probably the most unsettling characteristic of the UNABOMB devices however, at least from the point of view of bomb disposal techs, are the booby traps. The basic idea behind a booby trap is just as the name implies: a trap for the "booby" who disturbs it. These devilish "gotchas" have been with us since Cro-Magnon blocked the door to his cave with a bee tree. Whether we call them "anti-handling" or "anti-disturbance" devices, the bottom line is the same. The big trick to successful booby trapping is to make damn sure the one setting the trap isn't the one who springs it. Many a potential "trapper" has become the "trapee" by a simple slip. It is for this reason that safeties are very often put into the firing train of booby-trapped bombs. It provides a last line of insurance to the person setting the bomb so that if the booby trap functions prematurely the planter won't become the planted. Examination of the UNABOMB devices shows no evidence of any such safeties, making his anti-handling mechanisms three steps beyond touchy. As a veteran bomb tech, I've oftentimes found myself wondering how he made it this far in one piece.

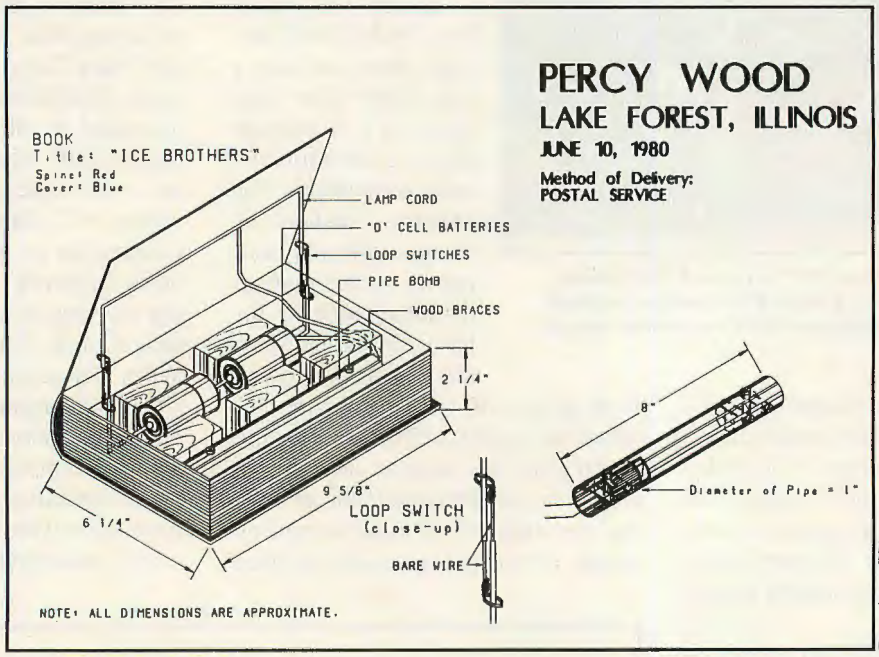
The pursuit of the UNABOMBer has been a long, hard investigation with a hell of a lot being accomplished by a lot of very dedicated people. The frustration level has been high. But not just with our foe the UNABOMBer. As the UNABOMB case jumped over jurisdictional boundaries it was inevitable that jealousy and inter-agency rivalry would raise its ugly head. To claim this has not hurt the UNABOMB investigation would be a damnable lie. It's sad but true. Ego has a tendency of getting in the way of common sense. In this case each of the top players, the FBI, ATF and the U.S. Postal Service, has its own bomb investigators, laboratories, and agenda. At the top of any bureaucracy's agenda is the over-riding need to keep its own lifeblood flowing — straight from congressional coffers. To achieve this end each must constantly out-do the other in vying for federal bucks.

Turf, Tragedy, Teamwork

For decades, the FBI has been the top dog in federal law enforcement. In the past several years we have seen ATF nipping at the Bureau's heels as it grew in its own right. No longer content to feed off the table scraps, ATF has risen to become the premier force in the investigation of explosives and arson cases, much to the chagrin of the FBI.

While most of the street agents in the FBI and ATF are plain hard-working cops not adverse to sharing, those in management view things from a different perspective. They know from where the bucks flow and are well-versed in drawing from the congressional well. And woe be unto anyone or anything that might impede this quest for the sustaining dollar. Never is this attitude more evident than in high-profile cases such as UNABOMB.

From the onset the stage was set for an interagency jurisdictional battle royal. In one corner the FBI claimed it should be their case because it was obviously a terrorist act. "But the Explosives Control Act of 1970 makes it ours," screamed ATF. And since many of the UNABOMB devices made their way to the intended victims via the U.S. Mail, Postal Service investigators also wanted a piece of the action. Meanwhile, the local cops into whose jurisdictions the bombs wound up just stood on the sidelines shaking their heads. As one bomb tech in Salt Lake City confided to me, "When are you feds going to quit pissing on each other's shoes and help us catch this asshole before he kills any more people?" I didn't have an answer, because I was just as frustrated as he.



Drawing: FBI

One of several bombs delivered by mail, the book bomb sent to Percy Wood contained the UNABOMBer's characteristic pipe bomb and improvised trigger mechanism.

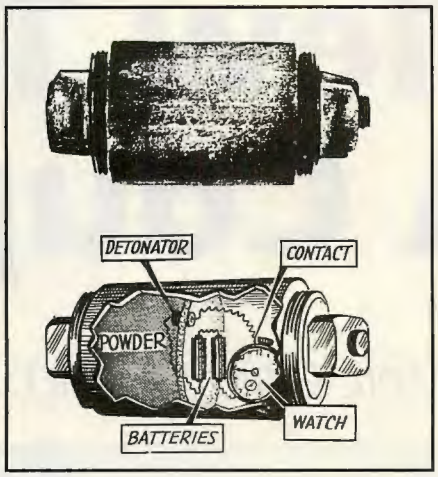
Each federal agency on the case had its own bits and pieces of the evidence and, at times, getting them to share was like pulling teeth. To complicate matters, some of the evidence had accidentally been destroyed while being tested in the Postal Service lab. At a 1990 meeting of the joint UNABOMB Task Force in Oakland, Calif., I recommended to all present (ATF, FBI and Postal Inspectors) that we needed to gather every scrap of information together in one central place and have it examined and evaluated by the best bomb techs, lab techs, and investigators available — from all agencies. Everybody present agreed but that's as far as it went. If this ever happened, I don't know. But I somehow doubt it.

Looking back to the case of the New York City abortion clinic bomber, it is evident that egos and rivalries aren't just confined to interagency pissing contests. Seeing that the case was at a standstill I made the very same rec-

Continued on page 73

AMERICA'S SERIAL BOMBERS

To best understand the uniqueness of the UNABOMBer we need to step back and examine some of this country's past serial bombers. Perhaps one of the most notorious was George Metesky, the infamous "Mad Bomber" who terrorized New York City from 1941 to 1957. Injured by a workplace boiler explosion, Metesky became enraged at Consolidated Edison company, blaming it for his injuries. To exact his revenge he began constructing time-delay pipe bombs and planting them throughout New York City. Like most terrorist bombers before him and after, Metesky wrote letters to the media to leave no doubt of the focus of his anger. Interestingly, when the United States entered World War II, Metesky wrote a letter to the newspapers stating that the country had enough problems without having to deal with his bombs. He halted his reign of terror until 1945, when, after notifying the media of his return, he again began to build and plant his little bundles of destruction. He kept up his campaign until his arrest in 1957.



One of the most notorious American serial bombers was George Metesky, who plagued New York City from 1941 to 1957 (with a patriotic sabbatical during World War II). *New York Journal-American* published these diagrams shortly before he was finally caught.

From October through December of 1960 a new serial bomber surfaced, again in New York City. Dubbed the "Sunday Bomber" because of his penchant for planting bombs on Sunday, this new serial bomber, like the Mad Bomber before him, let the media know of his plans. Unlike Metesky however, the Sunday Bomber made it crystal clear — he wanted to kill someone: anyone. He claimed that when one of his bombs killed someone, he would stop. His murderous fantasy was finally fulfilled with the death of a 15-year-old girl on a subway train. The bombings ceased, and the Sunday Bomber was never heard from again.

Malvasi's fourth bomb was made from 15 cartridges of dynamite, a pocket-watch timer, electric detonator in the dynamite, a metal cigar-tube "booster" of flash powder, an electric match ... and a Benedictine medal to "bless" the bomb. This device was recovered nearly intact when only the cigar tube exploded, starting a small fire.

NYCPD

NYCPD bomb squad rendered safe the third bomb planted by Malvasi. Shown are his clock timer, battery and blasting-cap detonator.

Maybe it's the air or the water but New York City seems to breed serial bombers. A final example was 36-year-old Dennis Malvasi. A former Marine, paramedic, pyrotechnician and jack-of-all-trades, Malvasi targeted New York City abortion clinics from 1985 to 1986. Beginning with a commercial fireworks aerial display shell,

Continued on page 74

NYCPD

Abortion clinic bomber Dennis Malvasi had a background in the pyrotechnics industry and as a paramedic. All bombers are quirky, but Malvasi telephoned his bomb threats to the local bomb squad: In the event they didn't go off, he would tell the bomb squad where they were and how to disarm them.

NYCPD

NYCPD bomb squad evidence photo shows remains of Malvasi's second bomb. The bomb functioned, injuring two people and damaging an abortion clinic.

COMORO ISLANDS

View To A Coup

Belgian Merc Claims French Betrayal

by Mark H. Milstein

Legendary mercenary Bob Denard, *le Roi de Fortune* (the king of fortune), struck again.

Having declined an invitation last fall to *SOF*'s Las Vegas convention, claiming he was tied up with "family business," Colonel Denard was busy commanding a 34-man mercenary team and taking over the Indian Ocean island nation of Comoros — for the third time. For the 67-year-old Denard, whose name had become synonymous with "dogs of war," the operation was a short-lived success on the impoverished islands, located off the east coast of Africa between Mozambique and Madagascar.

Less than two weeks after Denard's near-bloodless coup against Said Mohammed Djohar, the Comoros' corrupt Moslem leader, France reacted decisively to this turn of events on its former colony. It dispatched a task force of nearly 1,000 men — among them legionnaires, marine paratroopers, infantry and artillerymen, and SpecOps troops — backed by transport aircraft, Puma helicopters and two French navy warships. About 600 men stormed the main island and arrested Denard and his mercs. *Le Colonel* was sent to a Paris prison cell to cool his heels for perhaps longer than he cared to imagine. (See "Counting Coups" in the Feb. '96 *SOF*.)

Given Denard's near-unblemished record, it wasn't long after he and his men — stripped of equipment, weapons and glory — landed in France that the accusations and conspiracy theories started flying. Among the questions: How, after three decades of waging merc war in such places as the old Congo, Angola and Benin, had Bob Denard pushed his luck too far? And did someone in power, unknown to both Denard and his allies in Paris, decide his mercenary days were over?

Double-Crossed, Says Merc

"We were fucked; we were compromised," explained one of Denard's key men on the Comoros operation, during an interview with *SOF*. "Everyone from [French President] Chirac down was involved."

Still sporting the remnants of his Comoran tan, Lieutenant Pierre Orosz, a muscular, six-foot-plus, Belgian army veteran and a seasoned operative in international executive protection and security, sipped a can of Coke as he recounted how he came to know Denard; also, how the September 1995 mission to the Comoros was allowed to succeed, and then gutted by a combined effort of spineless politicians and an elite military force.

"I was recruited [for that mission] in Geneva in May 1995," Orosz began. "But we knew of each other from

Disarmed local troops who sided with Bob Denard and his mercenaries are guarded by members of the French task force that recaptured the Comoros Islands.

a meeting we had in the States two years before."

"As you might know, in 1993 or early 1994, Denard did a conference at [the University of Central Florida.] We [an American security and protection firm Pierre is associated with] organized the conference and tried to make a joint venture with Denard in France, as well as create a special-operations branch within our own company."

Orosz said both the conference and the company's SpecOps plan failed miserably. His contact with Denard, however, remained strong.

"During our Geneva meeting," the Belgian merc continued, "Denard explained that he would have a contract for me. I agreed, and on August 17 [1995] I got a phone call asking me if I were still interested. I again said yes, and from that moment on I was on standby."

"As a matter of fact," Orosz admitted, "when Denard recruited me, I didn't ask him any questions. I might be stupid but I'm not that stupid: I knew it was an operation. I didn't ask any questions because it was *him*."

The fee was 17,500 to 25,000 French francs (about $3650 - $5210) per month with a 50,000-franc bonus to be paid upon completion of the mission, he said. The base fees varied according to each man's capabilities and mission duties.

Operation Kaskari Is On

Four days later, on 21 August, Denard again contacted Orosz, this time with news that an operation, code-named "Kaskari" (the name of the seasonal wind that batters the Comoros), was on.

"He gave me the rendezvous date and place as Wednesday, August 23, at 1200 hours at Orly Airport's west terminal [outside Paris]," the Belgian recalled. "I

Mark H. Milstein

Belgian mercenary Pierre Orosz shows off an autographed copy of Robert Denard's biography, *Le Roi de Fortune* ("The King Of Fortune").

Gamma Liaison

Gamma Liaison

Mercenary commander Denard speaks to journalists outside his Comoros headquarters before his arrest by French troops in October 1995.

went there, he gave me a plane tickets. I changed terminals to Orly South and I then met with two other guys who were to travel with me to Tenerife [Canary Islands]."

When Orosz and his two French companions arrived in Tenerife, off the northwest coast of Africa, they immediately linked up with the remaining members of the team: 31 French mercs, a doctor, a cook and the captain of their small transport ship. The captain was a veteran of Denard's last coup attempt in the Comoros; this time, his ship was a converted 62-meter cable ship, renamed the M.S. *Vulcain*. Purchased in Bergen, Norway, it was loaded with satellite telephones, four Zodiac rubber boats, three tons of food and more than a ton of weapons, ammunition and explosives.

"Most of the guys were recruited as security personnel," Orosz continued, "because the official mission was a diving/archaeological expedition. So most of them were divers working in security and executive protection in France. Most of them were also former French army paratroopers." He explained that the French mercs were recruited two ways: via the association of paratroopers, and through a newspaper ad seeking security personnel for a Swiss company.

"The first two weeks were quiet on board," he recalled. "We did nothing except maintain our equipment. The second week we had a cocktail party and were introduced. Then, the night before we landed, Denard said we are going to the Comoros Islands, and we're going to take out the president."

When the *Vulcain* passed Cape Hope, below South Africa, it was buzzed twice at low altitude by a Dakota airplane with South African markings on the tail. "Was he there reconning us, or was he just checking if we were there on time?" Orosz wondered aloud. One month and 18,000 kilometers later, the ship and its mercenary crew arrived in Comoran waters.

Going In Lightly

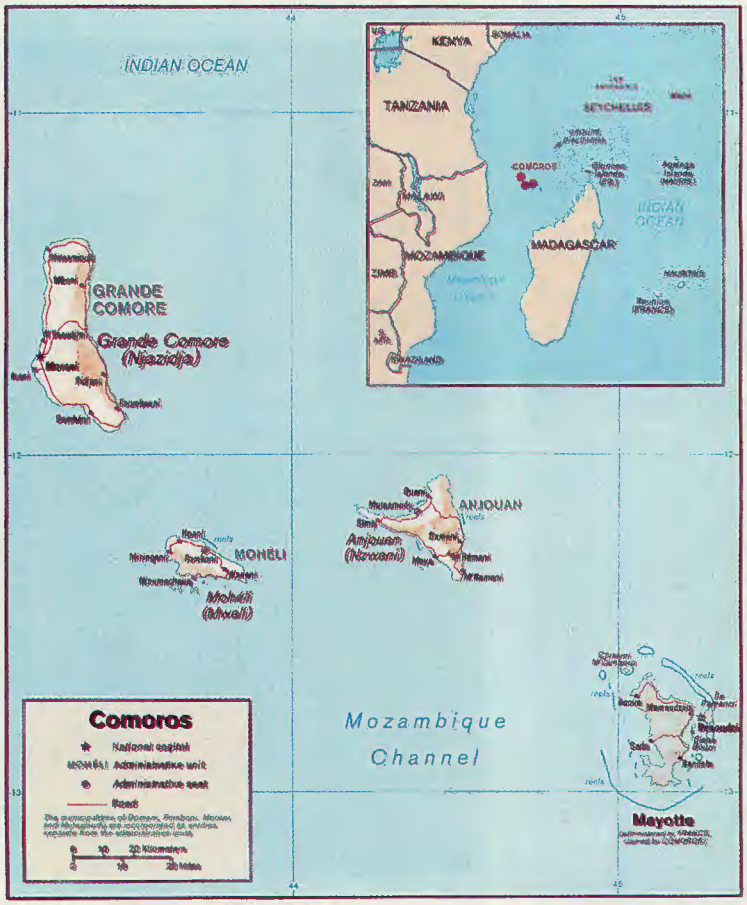
Orosz said Denard had the mercs armed with an arsenal of Ruger Mini-14s, pump shotguns and AR-15s — all civilian weapons — and no side arms or heavy weapons. "Everyone had his own weapon," the Belgian merc explained. "The officers had grenades. Not us. I was issued 250 rounds of ammo, given a walkie-talkie and that's it. Even the walkie-talkie frequency was public. We all had woodland-cammo BDUs. No Kevlar, but our weapons all had Red-Dot sight features. The guys even took their own para boots. We also carried CS gas, but it was never used. We were very light on materiel." One reason the merc team travelled so lightly, Orosz said, was because Denard knew that Comoros Defense Force (CDF) arsenal was stuffed with recently purchased AK47s, MP5SDs, UZIs, RPG-7s and other weapons.

Denard, as anyone who has ever been under his command knows, demands absolute discipline from his men, with "cowboys" and gunslingers being dealt with appropriately. This operation was no different.

"The instructions were very clear," Orosz said. "We had very, very specific instructions not to shoot unless we were shot at first. There was to be no looting of the bank; there wasn't anything in

Reuters/Corinne Dufka

A French paratroop marksman maintains a security overwatch on 6 October 1995 in Moroni, the capital of the Comoros Islands, as curious townspeople look on.



courtesy CIA

The Comoros are familiar terrain to Col. Bob Denard — the site of three takeovers by his dogs of war.

the bank anyway. We are not bandits, we are soldiers. We follow orders. We were hired for a military contract."

"We weren't going there to make a mess. No bloodshed," the Belgian said. "That was very clear, and that's what we did. At the military camp we didn't shoot once. At the Presidency, we did shoot back because we were shot at."

With intelligence provided Denard and his mercs by a supposedly experienced team of recon specialists — actually a chunky, middle-aged French blonde, her equally nondescript girlfriend and their two "boyfriends" — the 34 soldiers of fortune boarded the Zodiacs at 0130 on 28 September for what they understood would be a landing on a smooth, relatively flat beach.

Wrong.

A Rough Landing

The beach, part way between the capital Moroni and the Ahaya airport, turned out to be an obstacle course of rocks and bad currents. Some weapons and gear were lost to the ocean that night, Orosz recalled. Additionally, Denard, who still suffers from a leg wound received during a previous operation, had to be carried to the caravan of Avis rental vehicles — a Suzuki 4x4, a minivan, and two light trucks — awaiting them on the road.

Denard and his second-in-command, Dominique Malacrino (also known as Commander Marques), had the men broken into four teams: Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta. Alpha, Bravo and Delta each had eight men, with Charlie team rating 10 mercs. Delta team was Denard's squad.

"I was assigned to team Bravo, and along with team Alpha our job was to attack Kandani barracks [housing the CDF]," Orosz explained. "Charlie team was to go to the presidency, take up position while we were attacking Kandani and, once Kandani was taken, wait for Alpha and Bravo to reinforce their entering the compound. Delta team took up position at the main crossroads going to the military camp."

The Belgian merc recounted how he and the other 15 members of Alpha and Bravo team took Kandani. "First of all," he said, "none of the Comoran soldiers were sleeping inside their barracks. It was too hot. They were all sleeping outside and their weapons were put on racks inside with locks on them."

The mercs painted the startled soldiers with their Red Dot aiming devices, Orosz said, "and they didn't move. They were like sheep. We were surprised because we had the idea we'd have a gunfight."

Meanwhile, members of Alpha and Bravo teams, with the help of a small group of turncoat CDF soldiers, surrounded the prison and liberated Captain Combo Ayouba, the man picked by Denard to run the government until new elections could be held. Across the compound, as teams Alpha and Bravo were rounding up the remaining Comoran soldiers, a "tool team" was busy entering the army's arsenal and securing communications equipment. Within minutes, the mercs' greatest threat — the defense force — was neutralized. Charlie Team could begin its assault on the presidency.

It didn't take long for the remaining CDF soldiers to figure out what was going on, Orosz recalled, and trade one allegiance for another. "Within six hours, we had 450 of the 475 soldiers on our side," the Belgian merc boasted.

More Bloodshed Avoided

While Alpha and Bravo teams had made a cakewalk of their mission, an unexpected hitch in Charlie Team's plans almost put the entire mission in jeopardy. "There was a big shootout at the presidency," Orosz said, "because while Charlie Team was waiting, a sentinel spotted them in the bushes.

"But there's one thing you must know," he added, "There were two particular guys within Charlie team that were former members of the DGSE's [the French CIA] anti-terrorist squad." They made contact with a Captain Ruby, the French national in charge of the Comoran Presidential Guard and himself a former DGSE anti-terrorist squad member, and arranged a peaceful takeover.

"These two guys from Charlie Team served under Captain Ruby," the Belgian claimed, "and they knew his code word: 'Stanislav.' So, they went to his villa and called his code name and identified themselves. He opened the door, and immediately called a cease-fire. He knew we were coming. That's why."

"Once the presidency was taken, President Djohar was considered a *guest*, not a prisoner," Orosz emphasized. "It was my job to guard him. We took him and his wife to Kandani, and explained to him the situation. He wasn't mistreated or interrogated. He was assigned to residence for his own protection. You could say that 75 percent of the Comorans wanted him killed. Many of the soldiers hadn't been paid in months. We provided him with a doctor, and after-

Gamma Liaison

Comoran Presidential Guards display one of their heavy weapons: a truck-mounted .50-caliber M2 HB Browning machine gun.

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PARABELLUM IN YOUR POCKET

Designed for close-range, high stress, rapid-fire desperation shooting when all else has failed, the Kahr K9 passes the important criteria required for this scenario with flying colors.

Kahr's New Age K9

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

Thanks to the unwitting efforts of Bill Clinton and Sarah Brady, semiauto pistols are finally being designed with envelopes that properly match the full array of handgun calibers. As a consequence of the ban on magazines with a capacity greater than 10 rounds, the "wundernines" of a decade ago are history. While the U.S. armed forces will continue to cling to their NATO-standard, monster-size 9mm Parabellum (*Si vis pacem, para bellum* — If you want peace, prepare for war) M9 Beretta pistols, the rest of us (including special operations units like Delta), when held to 10 rounds, will stuff service-size pistols chambered for the battle-proven .45 ACP cartridge into our holsters.

The 9mm Parabellum cartridge should more appropriately be relegated to modern pocket-pistol configurations. Although the introduction of the 147-grain Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP) bullet moving at subsonic velocities has improved the 9mm Parabellum's performance to a significant degree, in the eyes of many armed professionals, its stopping power remains marginal. It was developed in 1904 for the German Luger-designed pistol adopted that year by the Imperial German Navy. This cartridge and a shorter-barreled version of the Luger pistol were officially adopted by the German army in 1908. Since that time it became the most widely used and best known pistol round in the world. But, oddly enough, no pistol chambered for this cartridge was made in the United States until Smith & Wesson began development of what was to become its Model 39 in 1948.

In the past, most pocket pistols have been chambered for four relatively anemic rounds: .22 LR rimfire, .25 ACP (6.35mm Browning), .32 ACP (7.65mm Browning) and .380 ACP (9mm Kurz). Only the .380 ACP cartridge hovers close to acceptable wound ballistics performance, and then only with the most current hollow point bullets.

Because of the low-pressure rounds for which they are chambered, pocket pistols have traditionally operated by means of unlocked blowback with a fixed barrel pinned to the frame. These designs require less engineering and permit lower production costs and usually a more compressed envelope. As a consequence of the greater recoil impulse it generates, the 9mm Parabellum cartridge is most often encountered in locked-breech, short-recoil-operated handguns.

There have been only a few 9mm Parabellum unlocked blowback pistols. Best known are the Spanish Astra Model 400 (9mm Bayard Long) and 600 (9mm Parabellum), both of which

used very heavy recoil springs. Less known is the Mauser Model 1912/14 pistol, of which probably less than 200 were produced. A scaled-up version of the "1910 Pattern" caliber 7.65mm pocket pistols, the Model 1912/14 had a slide lock-retard device on the front of its frame.

Today there are several genuinely small pistols that employ locked-

breech, short-recoil operation to accommodate more powerful rounds. The most contemporary examples are the recently introduced Glock Models 26 (9mm Parabellum) and 27 (.40 S&W). They will undoubtedly impact on the sales of another 9mm pocket pistol that reached production series and retail distribution early in 1995. Manufactured by Kahr Arms (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 220, Blauvelt, NY 10913; phone: 914-353-5996, fax: 914-353-7833) at their factory in Massachusetts (184 Prescott St., Worcester, MA 01605), the Kahr K9 has dimensions close to those of the Glock M26/27 series.

Overall length of the K9 is 6.0 inches (that of the Glock 26/27 is 6.3 inches). The height is 4.5 inches, just slightly more than the Glock's 4.2 inches, but enough for a full grip on the frame for all except those with extremely large hands. The width, with wood grip panels, is 1.115 inches, which again is very close to the Glock's width of 1.2 inches. Because of its polymer frame, the Glock 26/27 weighs only 19.7 ounces, empty and without a magazine. Although still fairly lightweight, the K9, which has a steel frame, weighs 25 ounces, empty. A version of the K9 with an aluminum-alloy frame is under development and will be available sometime in 1996.

The grip-to-frame angle (that angle formed by the front leading edge of the grip portion of the frame with a line perpendicular to the bore's axis) is 13 degrees. That of the M1911 Government Model is 17 degrees.

The Kahr K9's slide is milled from 4140 ordnance steel bar stock. Its frame is a mill-finished, 4140 ordnance steel, investment casting. Both the slide and frame have a black oxide finish, as do the other steel components, except for the barrel.

The 3.5-inch barrel, manufactured by the famous German barrel maker, Lothar Walther, has six-groove, polygonal rifling with a right-hand twist of one turn in 9.84 inches (250mm). Polygonal bores provide a better gas seal, more consistent velocities, superior accuracy and ease of maintenance. The barrel lug and feed ramp are cut away on the right side to accommodate a projection inside the frame that houses the trigger bar and trigger return spring. This brings the bore's axis somewhat closer to the trigger mechanism and thus the shooter's grip as well, and by so doing slightly moderates the perceived recoil.

Both the front and rear sights are dovetailed to the slide. The blade type front sight, 0.14-inch thick, has a

Method Of Operation

This locked-breech, short-recoil-operated pistol is a clever blend of both innovative and well-proven conventional features. The barrel and slide are locked together by a rectangular locking lug above the barrel's chamber which engages the slide's ejection port. This form of locking is found on the SIG-Sauer series, Ruger and Glock pistols as well. The slide stop's axis pin passes through a kidney-shaped cutout in the barrel's underlug.

After ignition, the barrel and slide recoil rearward locked together for approximately a half of an inch. At that point, the camming action of the slide stop's axis pin upon the cutout in the barrel's underlug pulls the rear of the barrel downward out of battery with the slide. At this time the extractor withdraws the empty case and as the slide continues rearward the case strikes the ejector (pinned to the frame back, a separate component) and is propelled out the ejection port. The compressed recoil spring, which is quite powerful (and will cause some to have difficulty manually retracting the slide), drives the slide forward to strip another round from the magazine and chamber it upon locking with the barrel.

All of this is fairly mundane, but the firing mechanism is not and requires some explanation. Like the Glock, this so-called "trigger-cocking" semiautomatic pistol has no thumb, grip or magazine safeties. When locked in battery, with a round in the chamber, the Kahr K9 is — ready or not — ready to fire. As the trigger is pulled, the trigger bar is drawn forward, pivoting the spring-loaded cocking cam (the left lobe of which engages the spring-loaded, three-piece firing pin assembly) rearward. At the end of its rotation the cocking cam drops out of engagement with the firing pin, allowing it to fly forward and impinge against the primer.

Simultaneously, the cocking cam's right lobe lifts up the firing pin's passive safety block and the cam pulls the firing pin assembly rearward from half-cock to a fully-cocked position under full spring tension. A ramp on the right slide rail disengages the trigger bar from the cocking cam and permits the cam to reset itself, reactivating the firing pin block. When the slide and barrel move forward into battery, the firing pin is caught and put under half-cock tension by the cocking cam. Trigger pull-weight on *SOF*'s test specimen was 6.75 pounds and objectionably mushy as the trigger travel prior to let-off prescribes an arc of 0.6 inch.

— P.G.K.

single white dot. The open, square-notch (which measures 0.15-inch in width) rear sight has a single, white, vertical bar centered under the notch. When fired under stress, these types of colored dots and bars are never seen. The rule for fighting is a "flash" front sight picture and the consequent reaction: "front sight, press." The front sight is retained by a small spring-loaded detent, while the rear is held in place by an allenhead screw that permits coarse windage adjustment.

Ken Null's Model SSS, Super Speed Scabbard, is a strong-side holster with a rearward muzzle rake that rides so high on the belt the magazine catch/release button clears leather. It's a superb piece of leather work by a master craftsman.

Get A Grip

As issued, the Kahr K9 pistol comes with wrap-around, textured soft neoprene-type polymer grips. Originally developed for hard-kicking, magnum-caliber revolvers used for hunting, tacky synthetic-rubber grips do not belong on fighting handguns. If you happen to get an incorrect grip at the commencement of the presentation from the holster, you cannot adjust the grip anytime during the drawstroke. Hogue, exotic wood, uncheckered grip panels are available for the Kahr K9. Those whose lives may very well depend upon this handgun, are well-advised to install them.

The spring-loaded, serrated, magazine catch-release button is located in the conventional position on the left side of the frame, directly to the rear of the trigger guard. When pressed, the magazine will fall cleanly away.

The 7-round, single-column, detachable box-type magazines have six indicator holes on each side of their chromed, steel bodies. The two-piece black plastic floorplate permits easy disassembly of the magazine, which should be done each time the pistol is cleaned. The floorplate extends slightly beyond the bottom of the magazine body and serves as a finger extension. The follower is also made of plastic, with a steel pin on the left side that pushes up the slide stop lever to hold the slide rearward after the last round has been fired.

A letter we received with our test specimen stated that, "the Kahr K9 is designed to fire 9mm +P ammunition" and that the pistol submitted to us for test and evaluation had been tested with CorBon 115-grain +P. Here we have another example of gun designers with backgrounds in mechanical engineering and that great non sequitur of wound ballistics, kinetic energy, telling us what type of ammunition we should use in a gunfight. As expected, since engineers

The 9mm Parabellum cartridge should more appropriately be relegated to modern pocket-pistol configurations, such as the Kahr K9, instead of large service sidearms like the Beretta M9.

Field Stripping

Remove the magazine and clear any loaded round from the chamber. Retract the slide rearward, about three-quarters of an inch, until the disassembly notch on the left side of the slide is aligned with the slide stop's axis pin. Gently drive out the slide stop lever, from right to left, with a brass hammer or plastic screwdriver handle. Ease the slide forward under control. Pull the trigger to release the firing pin. Let the trigger go forward, to permit the passive firing pin safety to pass over the cocking cam, and push the slide group forward and off the frame. Press forward on the recoil spring guide rod and remove the guide rod and recoil spring from the slide. Lift out the barrel. No further disassembly is recommended. After cleaning and lubrication, reassemble in the reverse order. — P.G.K.

Kahr K9 Specifications

Caliber: ..... 9mm Parabellum.
Operation: ..... Locked-breech, short-recoil, semiautomatic, trigger-cocking system with no thumb, grip or magazine safeties but with passive firing pin block.
Weight, empty: ..... 25 ounces.
Length, overall: ..... 6 inches.
Height: ..... 4.5 inches.
Width (at the grips): ..... 1.115 inches (with wood grip panels).
Barrel: ..... Six-groove, polygonal rifling with a right-hand twist of one turn in 9.84 inches (250mm).
Barrel length: ..... 3.5 inches.
Magazine: ..... 7-round, single-column, detachable box-type with removable base pad and floorplate.
Sights: ..... Blade type front sight, 0.14-inch thick, with a single white dot; open, square-notch (which measures 0.15-inch in width) rear sight with a single, white, vertical bar centered under the notch; both dovetailed to the slide.
Finish: ..... Black oxide.
Furniture: ..... Black, neoprene-type polymer grip panels; optional Hogue exotic wood grip panels at $47.95.
Price: ..... $595 complete with one magazine; spare magazines at $32.50 each.
Manufacturer: ..... Kahr Arms, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 220, Blauvelt, NY 10913; phone: 914-353-5996, fax: 914-353-7833.
T&E summary: ..... Reliable. Proper compressed envelope for the 9mm Parabellum cartridge. Designed for deep concealment and gunfighting at close ranges. Mushy trigger pull.

KAHR K9, completely disassembled.

usually have no professional experience in trauma medicine or human physiology, they are wrong.

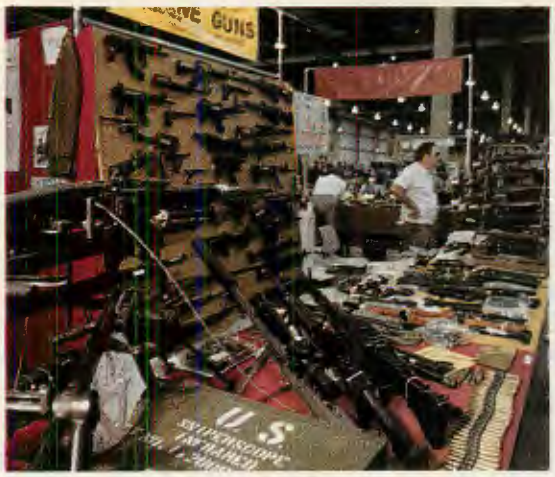
In assessing handgun ammunition, penetration is, without doubt, the most important single parameter. The bullet must penetrate deeply enough to crush, cut and break through the human body's vital structures and organs. The capacity to penetrate up to 18 inches of soft tissue is desirable and any bullet not capable of penetrating approximately 12 inches is not acceptable for law enforcement or self defense.

Once we've obtained the required penetration, the bullet that makes the biggest hole will do the most damage. It's important to remember that if we drive a hollow-point projectile at too high a velocity, it will inevitably overexpand and reduce the penetration to an unacceptable depth. It may also fragment to an undesirable extent. There's a correct velocity for every handgun bullet, and it's never the highest velocity possible. Big game hunters understand this, but the Fantasy Island hobbyists who write about gunfighting in the popular gun press, with few exceptions, don't seem to have a glimmer.

That said, we fired more than 1,000 rounds during our test and evaluation of the Kahr K9 pistol, employing 9mm Parabellum hollow-point ammunition that ranged from 115-grain bullets moving at hypervelocities to 147-grain projectiles plodding downrange at subsonic speeds. Two types of both CorBon (Dept. SOF, 1311 Industry Road, Sturgis, SD 57785; phone: 800-626-7266) and Black Hills (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 3090, Rapid City, SD 57709; phone: 800-568-6625) ammunition were used. CorBon's 115-grain JHP +P load carries a factory velocity rating of 1,350 fps. This dropped to 1,220 fps when fired through the Kahr K9's 3.5-inch barrel. Their 147-grain bonded (the jacket and lead core are fused together to prevent their separation and provide deeper penetration) hollow-point (BHP) subsonic load dropped only 50 fps — from 990 fps to 940 fps.

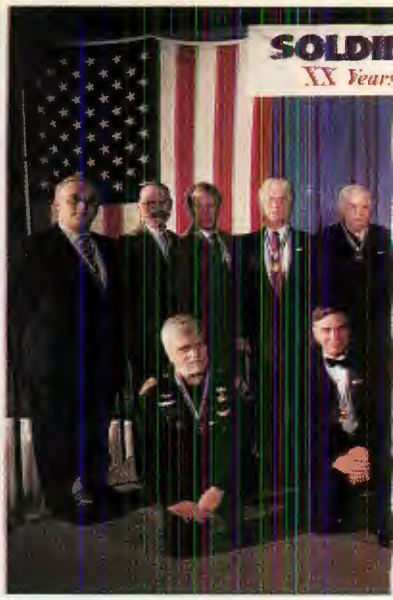
The bullet configurations used in these two loads stand in juxtaposi-

Continued on page 68



Hundreds of exhibits, ranging from cutlery to combat vehicles, filled the Convention Center at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas, 29 Sept. through 1 Oct. 1995.

Not one to hide behind podiums, G. Gordon Liddy fields questions from the banquet audience.



FEAR & LOADING IN LAS VEGAS

Machine guns spitting hot rounds detonate exploding targets during *Soldier Of Fortune*'s firepower demo on the Desert Sportsman's Range.

Mary Ouellette-Mester, a student of Gurkha war veteran Dr. Maung Gyi, makes a reinforced cut during a demo of *kukri* short-sword techniques of the American *Bando* Association.

A Marine Corps color guard presents Old Glory at the formal banquet. Amonf those at the front table are (from left) Jim Fotis, executive director of the Law Enforcement Alliance of America; Graham County, Ariz., Sheriff and Mrs. Richard Mack; Mary and Robert K. Brown; *SOF* Contributing Editor John Donovan, Special Projects Director Alex McColl and Technical Editor Peter G. Kokalis; special guest G. Gordon Liddy; *SOF* senior writer James L. Pate; Lt. Cmdr. Guy Cunningham; and Ralph Edens.

Sky god Mike Herlihy arrives at the Desert Sportsman's Range under a nine-cell square canopy.

The *SOF* Salvador Team poses with Col. Luis Mariano Turcios, retired commander of the El Salvador Parachute Battalion (center, rear), and the G-Man. Team members are, front row from left: Ralph Edens, Dana Drenkowski, John Donovan, Robert K. Brown, and Peter G. Kokalis; back row, from left: Mike McPike, Chris McDonald, Hugo Hartenstein, Tom Reisinger, Dr. John Peters, Turcios, Liddy, John Padgett, Alex McColl, and Larry Martin.

SOF Associate Publisher "Lefty" Wilson presents Virginia Commander, executive publisher of Harris Publications, with the first-place trophy for "top woman shooter in the executive publishers' category."

SOF Convention '95

Photos by Robert Walchli

A member of the "gentler" sex shoulders a big-bore bruiser at the firepower demo.

Ready on the left; ready on the right — fire!

Modern-day gladiators entertain pool-side spectators at the *SOF* pugil-stick competition.

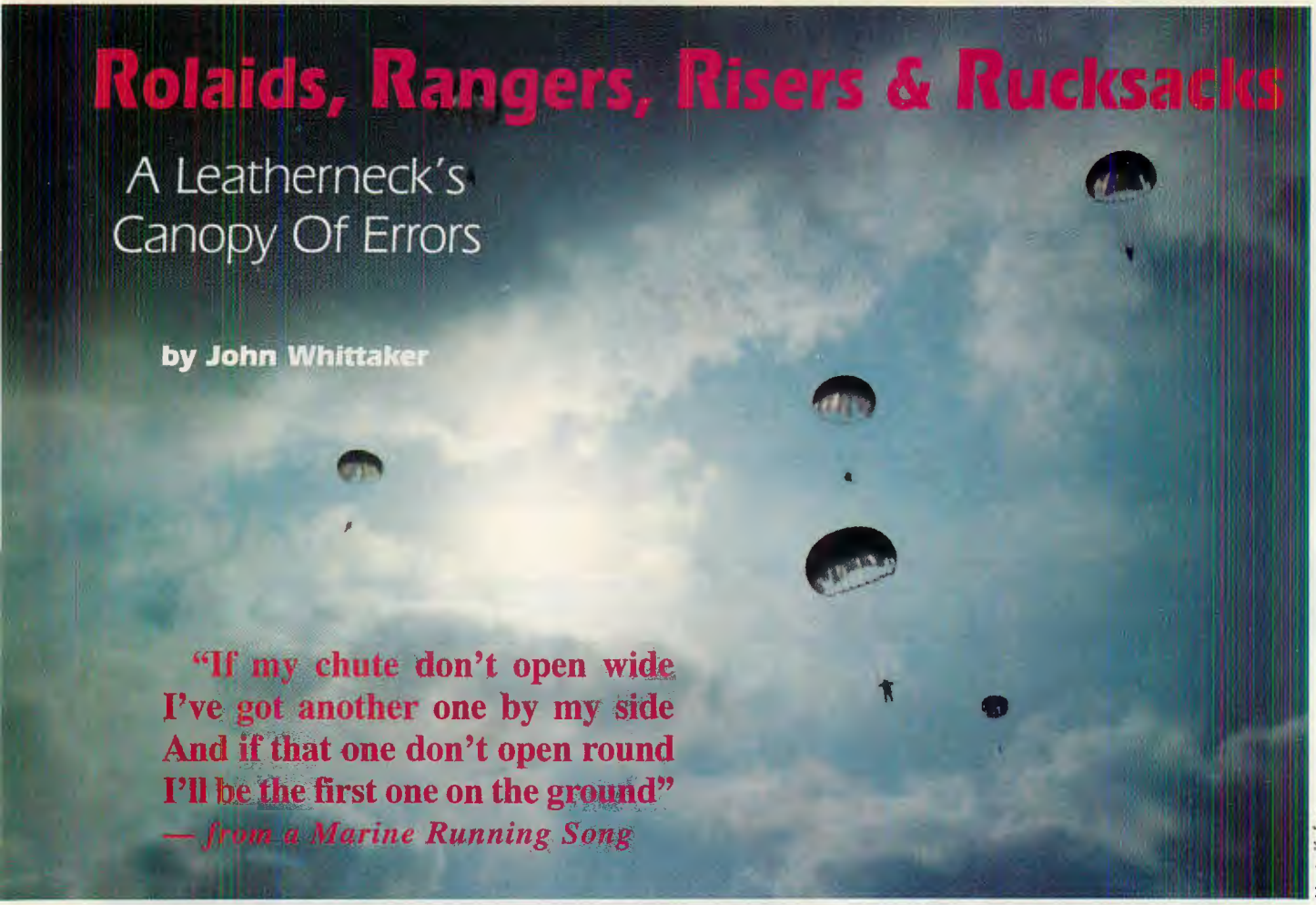
Ralph Montoya

A couple of '90s Women — *SOF* Convention-style.

Rolaids, Rangers, Risers & Rucksacks

A Leatherneck's Canopy Of Errors

by John Whittaker



**"If my chute don't open wide
I've got another one by my side
And if that one don't open round
I'll be the first one on the ground"**
— from a Marine Running Song

Marty Kufus

U.S. paratroopers descend toward their DZ in a 1983 "Hollywood" jump (no combat equipment) with MC1-1B steerable parachutes.

"The drop altitude for today's jump will be 800 feet."

I could feel a slight burn in my stomach. Even after 20 jumps, I instinctively dug in my pocket for an antacid tablet. Two things were becoming standard operating procedure for a jump: the burn in my stomach and the hazing from an Army Ranger who went by the nickname "Topper."

Topper's real name was Mike Hatter and the consensus was that the nickname was a play on the last name, as in "top hat." My personal view was that Hatter's personality demanded that he top any story. If someone told a story about a Navy SEAL whipping two drunks in a fight, rest assured, Topper would relay a story about an Army Ranger whipping three. It was as if the entire reputation of the 75th Ranger Regiment rested in his care. It was his opinion that the Rangers could outshoot, out-fight, out-drink, and, of course, out-jump any other military unit on the planet.

As expected, Topper asked "Hey Jarhead — ever jump below a thousand?"

"Sure, I had the top rack at boot camp." I grinned, declining the chance to let Topper know that "Jarhead" was one of my least favorite terms for a Marine.

"Hey, look, I'd be glad to give you a few pointers or maybe check your equipment."

> "If I ever stand in that door and I'm not a little scared — well son, then I'll just quit jumping."

"Hey, thanks," I replied with all the sincerity of a Subic Bay bar girl. "Maybe you could take time to point out some of the hard stuff. I keep forgetting which one is the reserve." I could feel myself getting sucked into the game. "And exactly what is it I'm supposed to do after I count to four?"

I knew what was coming next. One need not be Jeane Dixon to make Topper predictions. "I'm surprised that you Marines can count at all."

I went back to checking my equipment. Failing to get a response, Topper went back to his own gear and started attaching his rucksack to the quick release straps. I popped another antacid and promised myself that I'd keep things in perspective. I was still disappointed with myself for being sucked into playing the game last Friday. Just because Topper felt that he guarded the Rangers' honor did not mean that I was obligated to represent the entire United States Marine Corps. But I had taken the bait on Friday — just

like a largemouth bass. No nibble — a full, knock-the-rod-out-of-your-hands strike. Before I knew what happened, Topper reeled me in.

The Run's Too Short

It started just like today. First an irreverent reference to the Corps, followed by an inquiry about the difficulty of the run, had set me up. Had I not been doing my imitation of a hungry fish, the 3-mile run would have been followed by a shower and a quick trip to the O-club for a couple of beers. But I bit. I agreed with Topper that a three-mile run was hardly worth the effort of lacing up the old running shoes. Somehow we decided to run a "little" farther.

I found myself jogging by the club hoping that they wouldn't run out of beer before I got back. Topper kept waiting on me to make the decision to turn. Finally we reached the farthest point on the base and were forced to turn back. Every time Topper pushed the pace, I pushed back. We finished our 10-mile run in a sprint. The 3-plus-10, half marathon left me with a swollen Achilles tendon and shot what could have been a great weekend. It added a little more acid to my stomach, recalling how easily I had been reeled into the game.

In truth, I did feel some obligation to present a good image of the Corps, as I was one of the few Marines attached to the Special Operations Command. The majority assigned there were special operations forces from other branches of service: Green Berets, Navy SEALS, Ranger and Air Force special operations personnel were the bulk of the command. The Corps sent me to the command via jump school at my request. Parachuting was not a requirement of the job, but I had been "strongly encouraged" to go on jump status. Many believed that a set of jump wings was a minimum requirement for credibility within this elite outfit. You were either "airborne" or a "leg." I had spent a lot of time with the infantry being a "leg," but now wore jump wings.

My thoughts of Topper and our macho mini-marathon were drowned out by the sound of an approaching C-130. I watched the big four-engine plane ease down on the runway. Today would be a "hot" load. Sixty-two paratroopers walked toward the plane as it spun around on the end of the taxi-way. The fumes and heat from the two starboard turbine engines were almost stifling when combined with the August heat. I hurried through the exhaust and held my breath until I stepped up on the tailgate of the military's most dependable plane. Within minutes I was strapped into the canvas seat with my knees jammed against Topper's, who had the seat opposing me. The good news was that we were in different sticks and would not be going out of the plane at the same time. The bad news was that I could not reach my antacids.

Parachuting may look like holiday stuff from the ground, but inside the plane it is simply hot, cramped and noisy. As sweat trickled down my neck and sides, I wished that the air conditioning in military planes worked. When I looked at the smirk on Topper's face, I was glad that the noise made conversation impractical. I checked the status of my ear plugs, as much for Topper's benefit as my own.

Adrenaline, Antacids, Airborne

There is no sound in the world quite like the doors opening on a C-130. Even though the plane slows during parachuting, the wind roars past the two side doors at more than 125 knots. When the crew lifted the doors, the plane shuddered and skidded side-to-side. I could feel the pilot adjust for the change in aerodynamics. As daylight flooded into the rear compartment, my pulse quickened.

I once believed that I was the only

Marty Kufus

Planes, 'chutes, equipment may vary, but some things never change: spring from the door, body tucked, count to four, check for a good opening. This shot was taken under an MC1-1B parachute above the Sahara during joint U.S./Egyptian "Bright Star '83" exercise; the C-130 circles away to drop another stick.

one who felt such a shot of adrenaline, but as I looked around the plane I suspected that 61 other people were feeling the same rush. Just like a straight shot of sour-mash bourbon, I could feel the burn in my stomach first. Ever so slowly the adrenaline eased out through my body, until finally, there was an almost irresistible urge to alternately clench a fist and then extend my fingers. I remembered once questioning an Army colonel who had more than 1,000 jumps. "If I ever stand in that door and I'm not a little scared — well son, then I'll just quit jumping."

The first stick of 10 jumpers stood up and hooked up on command, fastening their static line to the steel anchor line cable that ran the length of airplane. The jumpmaster was almost outside the airplane with a death grip on the two edges of the door. He came back inside and gave a reassuring thumbs up, indicating that he could see the drop zone. One last look outside, and the jumpmaster came back in and issued words familiar to all military parachutists: "Stand in the door!"

The first jumper moved into position. Nine other jumpers focused on him. The jumpmaster focused on two lights. As the red light went out and the green flashed on, the jumpmaster slapped the jumper on the buttock and screamed "Go!" The voice command probably wasn't heard by the first jumper — too much wind noise — but when the hand hit, by pure reflex, the first jumper was out the door. The next nine left in a rush, each man practically pushing the man in front of him out. Ten men trying to get out the door on a 10-second drop zone: Hesitate and the last one or two are off the intended landing area. The last man beat the clock and got out on a green light. The red light came on and the crew shut the door.

Stand In The Door

The plane arched around and six minutes later the process started again with the second stick. I was in the fifth stick and got to watch the process four times before it was my turn, each circuit identical to the first. One mistake during the exit can be fatal, so it is imperative that the standardized procedures are followed to the letter. No one on this operation missed a cue. The jumpmaster went through a series of commands. The jumpers responded like musicians to a conductor performing a well-rehearsed piece. Everyone was alert.

Finally, I responded to "Stand up" and "Hook up." When the jumpmaster screamed "Check equipment," I checked my own and then the man in front of me. I was the last man in the stick and turned around so the man in front could also check my static line. He gave me a reassuring tap on the helmet and I turned back around. On the command, "Sound off for equipment check," I slapped the thigh of the jumper in front of me and said, "OK."

"OK."

"OK" is repeated by each jumper until the front man gives "All OK, jumpmaster." An experienced jumpmaster designated as the "safety" walked down the plane, giving the jumpers one final check before their exits. The theory is to catch a problem in the plane, for surely once a man steps out of the door, there is nothing between him and death but the equipment on his back. That thought crossed my mind as the safety turned and walked back toward the rear of the plane and positioned himself to accept the slack in the static line that each jumper currently holds in his hand. I remember a crack someone once made, "Do you know parachutes are made by the lowest bidder?" I said a quick prayer.

The green light flashed on and the jumpers in front of me vanished into the slip stream. I could see outside; I

U.S. Army

"As I hit, one word came to mind: rucksack!" **Having jumped from C-130s, members of the Army's 325th Airborne approach the ground near their home in Vicenza, Italy with rucksacks suspended below them. The 325th is part of advance guard of American troops in Bosnia.**

could see the ground before I got to the door. *Damn, 800 feet is low.* My hand extended to pass my static line to the safety. Then it happened. It was only a slight hesitation by the safety, but he dropped my static line. I went out of the plane and instinctively grabbed the reserve on both sides and started the count. "One thousand," started from my brain, but the words never reached my lips. Something was wrong. Something was terribly wrong.

On a normal jump, a parachutist feels his adrenaline rush when he hears the doors go up on the plane. There is another more intense adrenaline high when he steps out the door. The same jumper breathes a sigh of relief when he looks up and has a full canopy over his head and is gently floating down to earth. The two-and-one-half seconds between the door and a full canopy are pure intensity. If the canopy isn't open by the count of four, you pull the reserve. This is not sport parachuting. Have a malfunction at 800 feet and hesitate — hesitate just a little — and the reserve will not have time to deploy. Today I could not pull the reserve. I had lost control of the rip cord handle.

A blur of yellow flashed before my eyes. My hands were ripped away from my reserve. I felt a sting on the inside of my right wrist. I was spinning. Everything was wrong. Everything was happening so fast. I felt my head being pushed down on my chest. The yellow blur went away and I struggled to get my hand back to the rip cord handle.

Out Of Control

Finally, I saw a parachute below. I was not in a freefall. So much for the good news. But I was terribly twisted. As I reached up to grab the risers and start bicycling my feet to get out of the twist, I noticed the blood on my right hand. In a split second I realized what had happened. My hand had crossed my static line. As I reached to put my hands on both sides of the reserve parachute, 15 feet of yellow nylon static line had screamed across my wrist while I fell from the plane. The static line took a two-inch strip of skin and threw me into a terrible spin. As my parachute opened, I was spinning out of control. The result was like a third grader spinning in a swing as the chains tighten and comes down on the seat. In my case, the risers had tightened all the way down and had pushed my head into my chest. Although I was not falling to my death, I was not in control of my parachute.

With a little luck I would land at the very end of the field ... there was a *barbed-wire fence* at the end of the field.

I forced myself to calm down. Why was I breathing so hard? There is no exertion to stepping out of a plane. I was trained to deal with a twisted parachute.

Reach up and grab the risers, pull outward to separate, and bicycle the legs. Thank you, God, it's working.

Slower than they twisted, I start to spin in the opposite direction of the twist. I could feel the pressure start to release from my neck. I looked up and watched the last turn spin out and gratefully saw a full canopy. For just a second life was good. Then I looked down.

Parachuting may look like holiday stuff from the ground, but inside the plane it is simply hot, cramped and noisy.

Parachutes and their cargo do not all fall at the same rate. Perhaps I was heavier than the man below me. Perhaps my rucksack was heavier. Perhaps the twists had reduced the diameter of my parachute. For whatever reason, I was coming down on top of the guy below me. How much can one pair of adrenal glands pump in one day? Get one parachute directly over another and the lower one "steals" the air from the upper. Then the parachute can collapse and allow a jumper to go into freefall. Sometimes the parachute opens back up; sometimes not. I had no desire to play parachute roulette. Instinctively I pulled down on one of the steering toggles.

Military parachutes are not designed to do precision maneuvers. It seemed like eternity before I felt the chute respond. I reminded myself to calm down. Think. Think. Think, damn it, think! I had been behind the events curve on this jump since I left the door. All I needed to do now was find the drop zone, face the parachute into the wind, drop my equipment, land and throw away my jump wings. I looked for the drop zone, but nothing below me looked familiar. The maneuver to avoid the midair collision had me flying away from the intended drop zone. I looked over my shoulder. Sure enough, I was drifting with the wind in the wrong direction. I pulled the toggle and faced the parachute into the wind. With a little luck I would land at the very end of the field we used for a drop zone. Did I say *end*? There was a *barbed-wire fence* at the end of the field.

Considering how my day had been going so far, landing in a barbed-wire fence wasn't really a big deal. Seconds before, I would have gladly traded a midair entanglement or a collapsed parachute for something as minor as a fence landing. Then a vision of my doing a Beetle Bailey routine in a fence, while Topper looked on and laughed, flashed through my consciousness. Again, I yanked down on a toggle line.

The decision to avoid the fence, however, was not without drawbacks. A perfect jump has the jumper gently floating to earth with his eyes on the drop zone, constantly watching for changes in the wind. It is important to keep the parachute faced into the wind so that the natural 10-knot speed of the parachute subtracted from the wind speed. I was now "running" with a 12-knot wind. I quickly lost sight of the fence. The ground was coming up quick. I kept the right toggle pulled with hopes the parachute would have time to come

Continued on page 70

Continued from page 61

tion to one another. The 147-grain BHP bullet has a serrated copper alloy jacket with a deep cavity so that it will expand reliably at subsonic velocities. CorBon's 115-grain JHP bullet has a much shallower cavity to prevent overexpansion at high velocity.

Black Hills' 115-grain EXP (EXtra Power) JHP is listed by the factory at 1,250 fps. It dropped to 1,150 fps in the Kahr K9. Their 147-grain subsonic load uses the superb Hornady XTP JHP bullet. It dropped from a factory-rated velocity of 975 fps to 925 fps. None of the ammunition used in our test lost enough velocity to affect its wound-ballistics performance. My personal choices would be either the CorBon or Black Hills 147-grain subsonic loads. Ammunition of this type has established an excellent track record with the law-enforcement agencies that issue it. Slow bullets penetrating deeply remains the proper equation for success against dangerous game of all types — from humans to elephants.

Instrumentation for the velocity tests consisted of the excellent PACT (Practical Applied Computer Technologies Inc., P.O. Box 531525, Dept. SOF, Grand Prairie, TX 75053; phone: 800-722-8462) MKIV Championship Timer with its built-in chronograph mode, together with PACT MK5 Professional Skyscreens. All shots were fired at a distance of 10 feet from the start screen, and the ambient temperature at the time of *SOF*'s test and evaluation was 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

There were no stoppages of any kind throughout *SOF*'s 1,000-round performance test of the Kahr K9. This is excellent reliability for a pocket pistol. Be advised, however, that all small semiauto pistols, either unlocked blowback or locked-breech short-recoil, must be fired from a death grip. Any limp-wristing will immediately induce a malfunction. Perceived recoil, even with hyper-velocity loads, was no more than expected from the 9mm Parabellum cartridge in an all-steel pistol.

Accuracy was sufficient unto the need. At 7 yards, all of the ammunition tested will group into 2 inches when fired with precision from a strong Weaver hold. Firing a pistol of this type from a Ransom rest at targets 25 yards away borders on the ludicrous and ignores the intended function of the weapon: close-range, high stress, rapid-fire desperation shooting when all else has failed. For that scenario, the Kahr K9 passes with flying colors.

The suggested retail price is $595, complete with one magazine. Spare 7-round magazines cost $32.50 each. The optional Hogue exotic wood grips are priced at $47.95.

Combat Leather for the *Kahr K9*

Deep concealment potential was obviously one of the Kahr K9's most important design parameters. For that a custom holster maker is required. Ken L. Null (K.L. Null Holsters, Dept. SOF, 161 School St. N.W., Hill City Station, Resaca, GA 30735; phone: 706-625-5643; fax:

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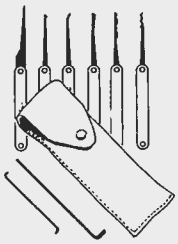

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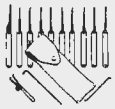

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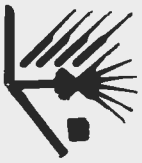

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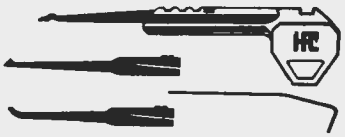

This unique design is ideal when low profile is required or to keep on your keyring for emergencies. Contains a tension wrench, three picks and the "Key Pick."

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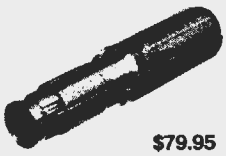

The most effective tubular pick on the market, unlike the larger picks with long handles or screwdriver handles. The longer the tool, the more pressure needed which causes easy breakage. The advantage of the **Mini Pick** is it is so short, you only use your thumb and index finger. With a little practice this tool will open a tubular lock in less than a minute. A. Your Choice: (1) Center (2) Offset left (3) Offset right; B. "Segal" 8 pin tubular; C. 5-pin Tubular; D. 6-pin Tubular; E. 8-Pin Ace.

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This tool was designed to decode the exact combination of a sesamee padlock without damaging the lock. Detailed instruction included.

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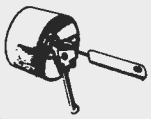

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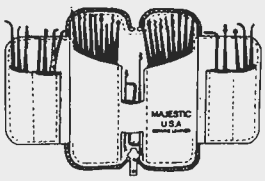

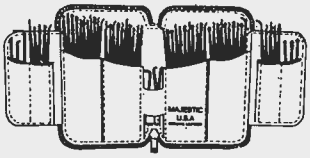

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Ken uses impeccable materials. He has for many years used vegetable-tanned horsehide exclusively. While more expensive than steerhide, horsehide is much denser: The same strength can be obtained with thinner leather. Although harder to work, horsehide doesn't lose its hand-molded configuration as easily as steerhide. Ken emphatically states that horsehide will maintain its retention qualities by a ratio of six to one over steerhide.

Horsehide can be molded more precisely than any other type of leather. In addition, it becomes glossy wherever it's in contact with the pistol's metal surfaces after about 50 draw strokes and will not hold onto abrasive material. Null uses a leather worker's "pear shader" set into a handle and various other wood and steel tools, some self-designed, for all his rubbing and molding. He uses no aluminum-cast replicas of the handguns to which he fits his holsters, only actual specimens to maintain the precision required for maximum retention.

My favorite Null belt holster is his Model SSS Super Speed Scabbard and it is the one I chose for the Kahr K9. This strong-side holster with a rearward muzzle rake rides so high on the belt that the magazine catch/release button clears leather. Another outstanding feature is the absence of leather at the root of the trigger guard, which permits the shooter to obtain a proper grip on the piece while it's still holstered and at the very start of the presentation without ever needing to reposition the grip during the drawstroke. It is a superb piece of leather work by a master craftsman.

— P.G.K.

ROLAIDS, RANGERS

Continued from page 67

around before I hit. If not, my landing would be like jumping off the top of a deuce-and-a-half doing 22 miles an hour. The ground came up quickly

and I brought my feet and knees together for what would surely be a hard landing. As I hit, one word came to mind: rucksack!

I've never played football. I've seen hard tackles on television and wondered. I'd give the meanest linebacker in the NFL a free shot before I take that landing again. The combination of high winds, a parachute in a turn and, of course, the extra 80 pounds of my rucksack, which had coincidentally bruised my knee, all combined to do what I couldn't do during the jump: slow my breathing. My lungs emptied. An agonizing eternity passed. My vision started to black at the periphery. I struggled to breathe. Finally, my lungs decided to get back into the game. After a moment, I stood up. I pulled the quick release on the rucksack and watched it fall at my feet. Forty-eight feet of lowering line remained in the pouch. I felt foolish and wondered if anyone noticed that I had failed to drop my equipment.

Someone once said that any jump you could walk away from was a good jump. I could walk away from this one. If I gritted my teeth, I could even walk without a noticeable limp. My wrist had quit bleeding and if I held it to my side it wasn't noticeable. Halfway across the drop zone, I stopped and watched the C-130 Hercules make the final pass. Like dull explosions the parachutes of the final jumpers opened. I watched for a while and then continued on to the awaiting vehicles. I hoped to drop my parachute in the 6x6 and get on the bus unnoticed. I guess in the excitement of the jump I had forgotten about Topper.

"Hey Jarhead, I'm surprised to see you here. I thought maybe you'd chicken out. How was the jump?"

I looked at Topper and smiled. Tomorrow I might do my imitation of a fish, but not today. "Just a jump. Nothing special. Just another jump."

This story is based on an actual event; the fictitious Mike "Topper" Hatter is a composite of certain Army parachutists. In 1992, the author jumpmastered a team of four Marines to a first-place finish in a parachute competition, beating out 30 teams from other services. The team from the 75th Ranger Regiment came in second.

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SOF

Continued from page 52

ommendation to my SAC (Special Agent in Charge) Rich Rawlins at ATF headquarters. From his reaction you would have thought I'd made a comment about his mother. As his face turned beet red and the veins popped out in his neck he slammed his hand down on the desk and screamed, "How dare you question trained [Special Agent] investigators ... you're only a bomb technician!" Fortunately the ATF Group Supervisor in New York agreed with me. Within 24 hours after I went to New York to review evidence and develop a profile, the bomber was identified.

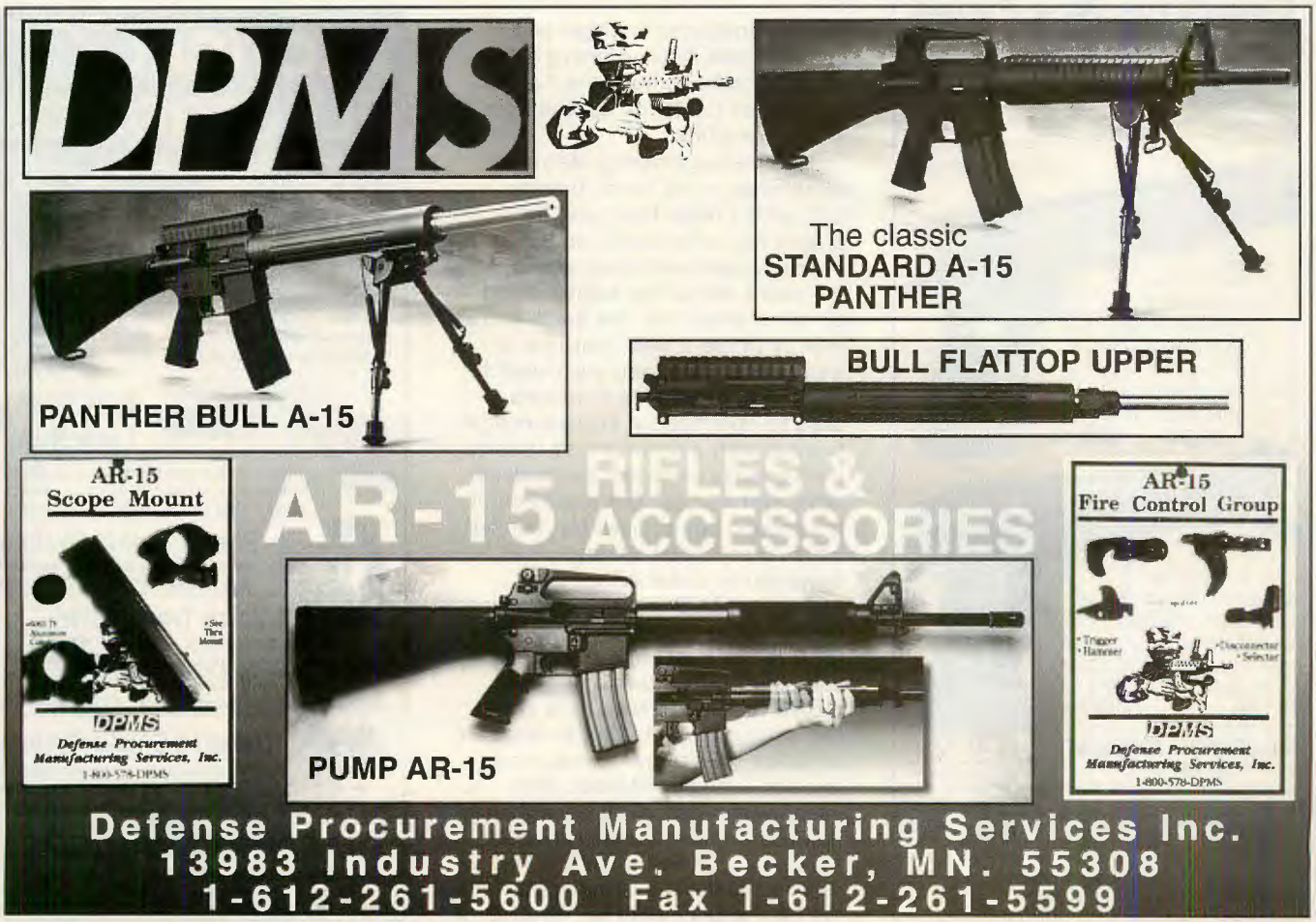
Could this approach help in the UNABOMB case? It damn sure couldn't hurt. While each agency is out doing its own thing, so is our arch foe, the UNABOMBer. Is there a simple answer to this ongoing problem? I wish there were. The simple fact remains, when egos and rivalries get in the way, only the bad guys win and they win too many.

Copycat Bombs

Many well-publicized crimes draw out "copycats:" those who are compelled to imitate the original act for whatever gratification it brings them. This is one of the reasons that police don't tell all they know about evidence in a particular investigation; it helps sort out the original sinner from the Johnny-Come-Latelies. In the UNABOMB case, it was several years before the letters "FC" were made public knowledge. However, on 28 March and 25 August 1988, a total of eight pipe bombs were recovered in the New York state towns of Hounsfield and LaRay. The bombs, recovered by Army EOD teams from Ft. Drum, New York, were turned over to the Syracuse office of the BATF. They appeared to be a crude copycat attempt, using cross-drilled holes and bolts to hold in the end plugs. Given that UNABOMB diagrams had been shown on the television program *Unsolved Mysteries*, it was possible that anyone could be responsible. However, what *Unsolved Mysteries* didn't show, and what was then known only in the law-enforcement and EOD communities was that UNABOMB marked some components with the letters "FC." One of the bombs found in the town of LaRay had the letters "FC" scratched into the side. An Army EOD tech was soon developed as the prime suspect, but the lead was never fully followed up by ATF.

Will the UNABOMBer ever be apprehended and brought to justice? I sincerely hope so — bombs worry the hell out of me. Or will he simply drop off the face of the earth, as did the "Sunday Bomber?"

Why has he taken to this path of death and destruction? Who knows? A review of his lengthy manifesto, as recently made public, gives clues only to his concerns, not to his rationale for deadly violence. Is the UNABOMBer a he or a she or a group? As they say, only the hairdresser knows for sure. Has he "lost it" and gone totally over the edge as some in the FBI are now claiming? Maybe, but I'm not so sure. Is it "definitely a sexual thing" as Chris Ronay, former chief of the FBI Explosive



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Unit, swears? To this I can only say I think that somebody's been pulling their pudding too long and it's not the UNABOMBer. Are they any closer to catching him? In my personal opinion, no. Nor will they be until everyone involved can put aside their egos and get their collective acts together.

I do know that I'd trade an R&R in Bangkok to be able to sit down and have a heart-to-heart with him, as I did with Dennis Malvasi, the New York abortion-clinic bomber. I've examined a pile of homemade bombs over the past three decades, and in all candor have found the UNABOMB case to be uniquely intriguing. As a bomb tech I deplore his ghastly actions, but at the same time I must admit to a hell of a lot of professional curiosity in the hows and whys of what he's done and where it will finally end.

A regular SOF *contributor, Richard Sherrow is a veteran Army EOD and BATF explosives investigator.*

SERIAL BOMBERS

Continued from page 53

Malvasi graduated to bigger and better bombs, finally planting a 15-stick dynamite bomb in the Planned Parenthood Center on Second Avenue in New York City.

Like many bombers, Malvasi telephoned in his bomb threats. But, unlike other bombers, he placed his calls directly to the police department bomb squad. In the event one of his bombs didn't go off, Malvasi told the bomb squad exactly where it was, just how it was constructed, and even went to the extent of warning the bomb boys to take special precautions. A bomber with a conscience? (Due to his warnings, only two bystanders were ever injured. The explosion of his second bomb, however, caused unusual collateral damage when a transvestite streetwalker was slightly cut by flying glass — which in turn caused her/him to administer a rather nasty bite to her/his customer). After developing the profile that led to Malvasi's arrest, the author spoke to him at length in an effort to determine what made him tick — no pun intended. This interview provided valuable insight into how and why he made and delivered his devices, as well as how he was so very successful at evading agents of the BATF and the NYCPD. —*R.L.S.*

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Continued from page 57

ward we set free his wife. We even allowed his daughter to bring him food every day. When the French arrived, the president gave me a French-language Koran as a gift."

Yet, all was not quiet. Another — larger — firefight later took place at Radio Comoro, where the mercs' bullets and RPG fire suppressed the unexpected resistance. Within days, Denard and his men had traded hats and began the second phase of their operation: training and regrouping the defense force and making life as normal as possible for the population.

Calm Before The Storm

But as successful as the Operation Kaskari had been, its second phase was only a calm before the storm brewing in the upper echelons of the French government. For Denard, the signs were ominous. It was clear that despite previous agreements and promises, the camp within the French government — the same men that gave Denard the go-ahead for the operation — were losing to more powerful voices eager to see Denard put back in prison or taken out altogether.

Denard's enemies now controlled his fate. Operation Azalea, the French military mission to arrest and neutralize Denard, was now underway.

"I was at the military camp [guarding President Djohar] when the French arrived," Orosz recalled. "We could hear them coming because of their Puma helicopters with 20mm cannons hitting the beach where some of our teams were. Once they attacked, Denard was in almost direct contact with the French negotiators and arranged for a cease-fire. He then ordered us, along with the Comoran Defense Force soldiers friendly to us, to regroup at Kandani."

The Belgian said that there was no way any of the mercenaries were going to tangle with the French paratroopers coming for them. "We weren't there to make war," Orosz said, "especially with one of our allies.

"For the French guys it was definitely different," he continued. "The guys coming for us were guys from their old units. So they weren't going to shoot them."

The French troops who took con-

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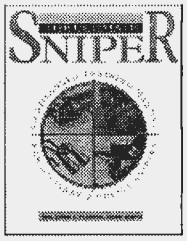

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trol of the island and arrested him and the rest of Denard's men for the most part treated the mercs "like pros, not like a bunch of bandits. There was some kind of mature respect," the Belgian said. "Mostly from the French marine paratroopers. With the COS [*Commandement des Operations Speciales*: SpecOps command], it wasn't the case. They were treating us more like bandits at the beginning."

"We were guarded by French paratroopers, which was very good," Orosz continued. "We were given rations. Conditions were good. They treated us well. We weren't handcuffed during detention. We were strip-searched, however, just prior to being sent back to France."

Denard Realizes Betrayal

The Belgian merc said he still can remember, quite vividly, Denard's look of surprise upon learning that Paris had sent troops to crush his operation. "When we surrendered, the Colonel was the very first to surrender," Orosz recalled. "It was the deal he made with the French. Was he surprised? I saw him take on 10 years in two days! He was so sure that nothing would happen.

"Just prior to the French attack, the Colonel had gone over to the presidency to debrief some of the men, and starting October 15 some of the men would return to Europe," the Belgian merc added. "Their contract would be finished. But, he said, 'I want some men, a group of 10, to stay.'

"'Do you want to stay?' he asked me. I said, 'Colonel, you should know the answer.' And two hours later, the alarms went off. The French had landed."

That should prove how sure he was, Orosz explained. "He was so sure he had assurance from Paris. He was in daily contact with Paris via an ImarSat telephone."

Denard had been betrayed: sent on a one-way mission, then hung out to dry when inexperienced and self-serving politicians got mixed up in the affair. It could have been a textbook merc op.

"Forget all those theories that Denard was bankrolled by South Africans or some other group," Orosz said. "That's not true. It was France. How else do you explain that on the very same day there was an Algerian terrorist bombing of the Paris metro, Denard was able to send one ton of weapons and explosives [for the Comoros operation] across the French border into Belgium and on to Rotterdam [Holland] where the boat was — and *no one* notices? Come on!"

"That's one thing," he added. "Do you really think 34 mercenaries that were recruited could be brought into a ship without anyone noticing? Do you think you could travel in a boat that has a skipper that was the same skipper that was on a boat in 1978 [Denard's first Comoros seizure] — the same skipper acting under his own name?"

No Regrets

Like all of Denard's men, the Belgian said he has no regrets, and would do it again if the Colonel were in charge. "We did the job we were mandated to do, which is take the president off. Which is a fact: The president is off, and they [the French] didn't put Djohar back into power. He was put into place by [former

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French President] Mitterand and Chirac didn't want him. He [Djohar] was the biggest crook the island has known in its existence," Orosz said.

"I only wonder why he [Denard] allowed a number of key mistakes to take place?" he wondered aloud.

"Delta Team, the team of the Colonel, was supposed to be guarding the crossroads near the military camp during the initial phase of the operation. Only 500 meters from their point, the commandant of the Comoran Defense Force was having a meeting, guarded by four men. We did nothing.

"Two kilometers from there," he continued, "was the Prime Minister and we did nothing. We didn't do shit. Why didn't we take the PM? Why didn't we secure the [French] embassy premises? That shouldn't have happened. That should have been the first thing we did. I mean, even me, as a little shit, I would be thinking of that. Why didn't we do it? Because we didn't have orders to do it.

"It was a way to sacrifice Denard. Denard is Denard. If it had been Mr. X, who would have cared?"

COMBAT WEAPONCRAFT

Continued from page 19

ghost ring sight is a worthy consideration. Rediscovered in the past few years by Jeff Cooper during his research on the Scout Rifle concept, the ghost ring sight is a thin rimmed aperture that almost fades out in the visual field as the operator mounts the weapon and looks through it toward the front sight. It is very quick and loses nothing in the way of accuracy potential. Additionally the ghost ring sight allows the binocular use of the eyes to locate targets and index the weapon's front sight on them with the dominant eye while continuing to scan the target area with the support eye. (Yes, both eyes are kept open.)

Depending on the degree of urgency, the weapon will likely be carried in a "ready position." Ready position means *ready-to-shoot*, not slung on the shoulder, tied to the back pack, inside a rifle case or any other form of low-risk carry.

The particular position chosen will depend on the tactical situation. For example, outdoors where engagement distances are greater and where weapon retention is not a problem, the High Ready (muzzle elevated) position is favored. As distances decrease or the likelihood of contact from a specific area increases, the Low Ready is a better choice. In the Low Ready, the butt of the rifle is already in the shoulder and the muzzle is depressed just enough to be able to see the adversary's hands and waistline. The Low Ready allows the quickest reaction time.

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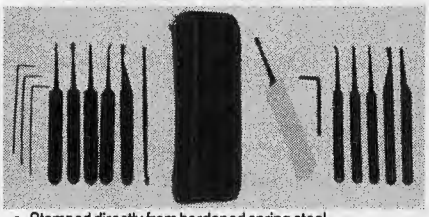

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est from which to respond.

The snap-shot process is identical regardless of the starting position. For the sake of discussion and instruction, we will proceed from the High Ready position. This position places the muzzle just below the visual line of sight to the target. The butt of the weapon is approximately at the beltline. The safety may be on or off depending on the design of the weapon and the tactical situation at hand. In *all* cases, the trigger finger is *off* the trigger (remember rule three).

The eyes locate the target. Maintaining visual focus on the target, the operator moves the rifle forward and upward in a sort of "stabbing" motion toward the target. When the rifle begins to move, the safety is disengaged and the trigger finger enters the trigger guard. As the butt nears the shoulder, it is brought into the shoulder pocket.

The next three steps occur simultaneously: The sights intervene between the dominant eye and the target. As the butt hits the shoulder, the trigger is pressed. This feels as if the trigger was pressed as a result of pulling the rifle back into the shoulder pocket. The shoulder mount and the resulting stock weld (the consistent positioning of the dominant-side cheek on the comb of the stock) are what actually aligns the rifle on target. The physical actions of the shooter in mounting and cheeking the rifle align the weapon, and the eyes verify that alignment via the rough sight picture.

The main attribute of the rifle is the capability to reach out and hit anything with authority as far as the eyes can see. Sometimes, however, because of terrain or unforeseen circumstances, the enemy must be engaged at relatively close quarters. When this happens, the rifleman cannot resort to traditional long-range marksmanship techniques. The closer the adversary, the quicker he must be neutralized. That is just what the snap shot will let us do.

Gabriel Suarez is a full-time police officer assigned to a tactical unit. He is the author of the book, Tactical Pistol *(soon to be released by Paladin Press). He instructs police officers and private citizens through the Front Sight Firearms Training Institute (P.O. BOX 2619, Dept. SOF, Aptos, CA 95003).*

PATHOGENS & POLITICS

Continued from page 39

Dr. Garth Nicolson, Ph.D., chairman of the Department of Tumor Biology at the University of Texas' M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, and his wife, Dr. Nancy Nicolson, Ph.D., also are actively involved in research into the syndrome. They became concerned with this medical mystery when their stepdaughter, who served as a crew chief on a Blackhawk helicopter in the 101st Airborne Division, was affected.

The Nicolsons believe that many Gulf War vets are infected with a microorganism — a form of bacteria — called *Mycoplasma fermentans incognitus*. Garth Nicolson said this organism will cause most of the reported symptoms of the syndrome.

Due to the nature of *M.fermentans icognitus*, which proliferate inside cells rather than between them, as bacteria do, infection is difficult to detect. However, Nancy Nicolson has developed a technique called "gene tracking" that allows these researchers to locate the microorganisms within the cells of a blood sample.

This particular mycoplasma, the researchers reported, "differs from other mycoplasmas in that it has a piece of retroviral nucleic acid integrated into its DNA genome." In plain English, this means that it is able to mutate quickly and easily, enabling it to affect so many different organ systems in many different ways simultaneously.

The Nicolsons have speculated, based on their research, that bioengineering might have produced this mutant microorganism. "Such findings suggest that the mycoplasmas that we have found in Gulf War veterans are not naturally occurring organisms," they wrote in a 1995 paper, "or to be more specific, they could have been genetically manipulated to be more invasive and pathogenic (potent biological weapons)."

Both Garth and Nancy themselves have been infected by this myco-

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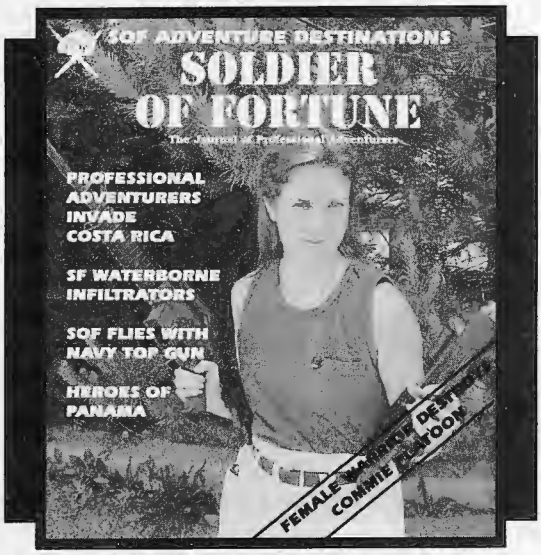

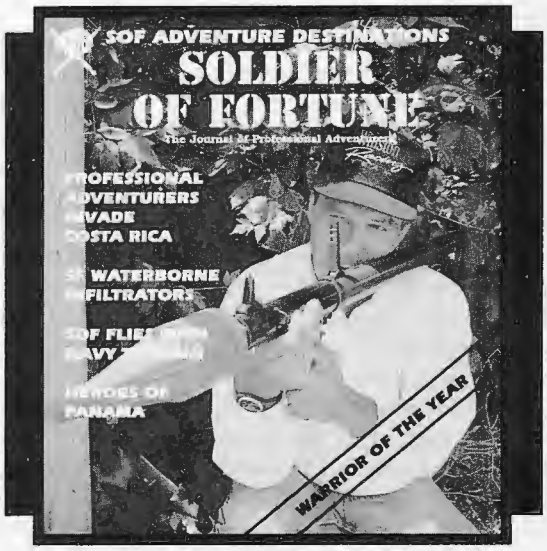

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plasma (Nancy almost died from it), and thus are able to give firsthand reports on both the symptoms and the treatment that they have found to be effective. In addition to the other symptoms, this mycoplasma can cause autoimmune problems, abnormal allergic reactions, peculiar neurological symptoms, heart abnormalities and, in extreme instances, encephalitis or meningitis.

The Nicolsons believe this mycoplasma is responsible for much of the chronic fatigue associated with the syndrome. The bad news is that this mycoplasma is communicable to other members of the family — even the family pets, as they found out when one of their cats died from this disease. The cat's blood tested positive for *M.fermentans incognitus*.

But there is good news: This type of mycoplasma is treatable with a common antibiotic that has minimal side effects. The researchers reported in the 25 Feb. 1995 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* that positive results had been obtained from two to four courses of treatment with the antibiotic doxycycline (the same one used in France). The Nicolsons found that two 100mg doses per day for a few days to a week, followed by one 100 mg dose per day for two to three weeks, seem to work best. The article noted that penicillin seemed to worsen the disease.

But despite the appearance of scientific articles, such as in *JAMA* and the *New England Journal of Medicine and Science*, about this mycoplasma, Nicolson says "the majority of the medical community is relatively unaware of this disease, and those who are aware are likely to play down its possible role in illness, concentrating more on treating the peripheral symptoms of the syndrome."

In a 1995 article in the *International Journal of Occupational Medicine and Toxicology*, Garth Nicolson, Hyman and five other researchers concluded, "The most pressing difficulty for most of the investigators working on GWS has been the appalling lack of financial support for their studies and the failure of the [VA] to cooperate with diagnostic and therapeutic clinical trials."

Charting New Territory

Since there was no widely available test for this infection and diagnosis might take time, the Nicolsons initially suggested it might be advantageous to try a cycle of doxycycline when the symptoms arose. Now a test is available in their laboratory in Houston.

"If the disease is present, one will feel significantly better within one to two weeks of taking the doxycycline, and you can avoid a potentially disastrous health situation," Garth Nicolson says. "The doxycycline treatment is not harmful in any way. At the doses recommended, it should not cause any problems, and there are few reported complications with this antibiotic."

If, in the case of those suffering from Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Syndrome, a patient cannot tolerate doxycycline, then macrolides, such as Ciprofloxin, can be substituted.

The Nicolsons cited two of their hundreds of research cases that ultimately saw success with doxycycline:

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Captain Charles Hamden returned from the Gulf War after serving in the 320th Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, out of Fort Campbell, Kentucky. His unit was deployed on deep insertions into Iraq. Since his unit did not come under enemy fire, he considered his service relatively uneventful — until approximately six months after he returned to the United States and settled into a new assignment, at Fort Meade.

What began as a relatively mild series of flu-like illnesses became progressively worse with coughing, nausea, gastrointestinal problems, skin rashes, joint pain, vision problems and severe headaches. Next, Hamden's wife began to have fatigue and gynecological problems, and her stomach began to swell, causing severe pain. Then his seven-year-old daughter became ill with similar flu-like symptoms that progressively became worse, and she failed to gain weight.

While this was happening, the Hamden family was under the care of Kimbrough Army Hospital at Fort Meade, and Walter Reed in Washington. However, they never received a diagnosis, explanation or treatment for their illnesses, even after extensive testing. Later they found out that several families of Gulf War veterans at Fort Meade had similar health problems. Desperate, they looked for other treatments. The antibiotic doxycyline helped. The Hamdens have completely recovered their health after several courses of doxycycline treatment.

Air Force Major Pete Zalewski was an intelligence officer attached to the 5th Special Forces Group at King Fahd Airport, west of Dhahran, and the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment based at King Khalid Military City.

After his return to the United States following the Gulf War, he began suffering from a variety of ailments: sore throat, night sweats, shortness of breath, dizziness, joint pain, short-term memory loss, vision problems, diarrhea and other bowel problems, skin rashes, and severe to moderate fatigue.

In a letter to the Nicolsons, Zalewski states: "I have consulted numerous active-duty military, veterans administration, and civilian doctors to little effect as far as getting a diagnosis — everyone agreed there was a problem, but no one was able to find it. ... I decided to try the doxycycline regimen. ... I am writing you because it worked 'as advertised.'"

In the 73 cases that the Nicolsons have documented, of Gulf War vets being treated with doxycycline, 55 indicated they had good responses to the antibiotic treatment and eventually returned to leading normal lives. The Houston researchers caution that this cannot be viewed as a remedy for *all* of the medical problems associated with Gulf War Syndrome.

"Obviously, other possible biological agents as well as chemical exposures have resulted in complex symptoms, and in agreement with the responses to the antibiotic doxycycline, this possible explanation and treatment could only be expected to be effective for a fraction of the Desert Storm veterans that are ill with chronic fatigue syndrome," says Garth. "That it is a safe and effective treatment for a sizable frac-

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tion of the Gulf War veterans and their families with chronic fatigue symptoms has been demonstrated."

Nicolson can be contacted at the Department of Tumor Biology, University of Texas' M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas 77030.

Perhaps the VA someday might drop him a line.

Mike Williams is a veteran of the U.S. Army, the Congolese national army and the Rhodesian army. He was infected with GWS while covering the Gulf War for SOF *and has been successfully treated by the Nicolsons, as has Dana Sue Honish, a former EMT.*

ESCALANTE BREAKS

Continued from page 47

the company's fine quality M-15 rifles, the AR-10 is chambered for 7.62x51 NATO. Ed and Walt, firing offhand, both knocked hell out of a 12-inch cardboard box at about 125 meters. Taking up a rest, Ed put five rounds into a 1-1/2 inch hole. The AR-10 even pleased Jones, the flintlock hunter.

Besides the AR-10 and one of Westrom's competition model M-15s, there were several other interesting rifles in camp. Brown, of course, hauled his new .45-70 everywhere, but Ed had a brand-new .300 Jarrett, a beautiful, custom rifle made in South Carolina by Kenny Jarrett. The .300 was one of the more popular genres in camp. There were several .300 WinMags and I had a stainless Remington 700 in .300 Weatherby. The .300 magnums shoot flat and hit explosively out to about 400 yards, making them a good choice for high-country elk hunting.

Neighbors reported that a big black bear had been getting into the garbage lately and was seen as recently as the day before we arrived at the cedar breaks. Considering that Brown had been skunked the first season, and that the only other game we'd spotted so far was a three-legged coyote, Brown determined that the bear must be hunted: His new Co-Pilot needed to be fairly field-tested. The bear must have guessed that there was a .45-70 around in need of testing, because he didn't come near the camp again, even though the savory smells of Jonesey's cooking wafted throughout the canyon.

Hunting

There were only a few days of the season left and no one had gotten a shot, when the weather suddenly changed and a bank of stratocumulus clouds appeared from the west one afternoon. By nightfall the temperature had dropped to freezing. Everyone rolled up in their sleeping bags and hoped for snow. There were several new-model sleeping bags in use in the camp: Brown and several others highly regarded their Peak One by Coleman, and I had a brand new Wiggy's Ultima Thule, a -40 rated synthetic bag made in Grand Junction, Colorado. Walt, the retired NYPD cop, had a $700 high-tech bag that comprised an air mattress and a down-and-synthetic bag all in a hard-sided, freestanding sleeping bag shaped like a coffin. Walt said that if the place flooded he could also use it as a canoe and we believed him.

Some of the sleeping bags were so comfortable that the next morning no one wanted to roll out of them and go

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hunting in the new-fallen snow. One of the guys who did, Mike Johnson, got a very nice four-point buck about 200 yards from the camp. The way he did it would drive most gun writers wild: First of all, Mike used the old, nondescript, unpedigreed .30-06 that he has carried forever. He stuffed a handful of cartridges in his pocket, and he didn't pay much attention to what brand or weight they were.

The buck was coming toward him but quartering away when he pulled the trigger at about 75 yards. The deer fell and got back up, running for a few more yards before dropping over, stone-cold, graveyard dead. On examination it was difficult to see why the deer had died. The entry hole at the front of the ribs wasn't very pronounced and the exit hole, about 18 inches down the ribs, was only slightly bigger. Normally a wound like that wouldn't slow down a deer, much less kill him.

When Mike dressed the deer, we could see that when the bullet hit the rib, it simply came apart. The core exited right where it should have, but the bullet jacket had peeled off on impacting the rib and plowed straight into the heart. One part of the deer's heart was churned into purple pulp by the .30-06 jacket.

The only other deer taken was on the last day by Ed using his .300 Jarrett ... but everyone said that it wasn't as big as the one shot by Johnson's no-name old .30-06.

Next year, Brown says, he intends to wait until the last combined deer-and-elk rifle season to open up camp on the Escalante Breaks, when the weather should have forced the elk to lower altitude.

Yup, buckaroos, there's always next year.

Frequent contributor John Hogan is a Vietnam vet, currently on assignment for SOF *in Bosnia.*

HEATER MEALS

When the hunting or weather is bad, hunters spend more time in camp, and the amount of food they consume is directly proportional to the time spent in camp. The semi-stalwart crew at Brown's hunting camp were blessed with the services of Bill Jones, who builds the sweetest dulcimers and most savory Dutch-oven stew on the Western Slope. But even Jonesey needed a break, and stand-in meals were provided by Heater Meals: tasty pre-made meals that come complete with condiments, napkin, serving tray and a one-shot exothermic heating element. The provided water packet is added to the heating element, which creates an exotherm sufficient to heat the meal: At 9,000 feet in the Rockies, it took another couple of ounces of water to get the meal enjoyably hot.

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—*S.S.*

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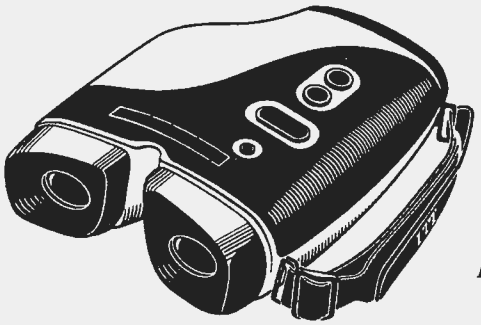

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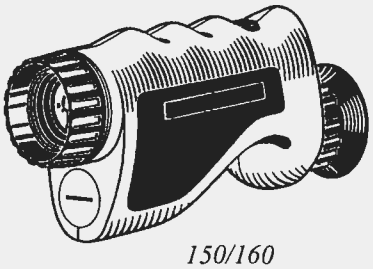

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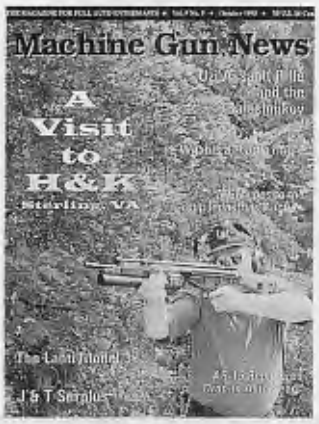

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I WAS THERE

Continued from page 21

were. Once there I found a spare drum magazine and loaded it with 71 rounds, reloaded the pistol magazines and found a carrier for the drum. I also grabbed a fur-lined army greatcoat. It was big, but the afternoon was getting colder.

Later on, someone showed me how to degrease and disassemble a Degtyarev machine gun, which had a 47-round pan magazine on top. A Russian hand grenade found a home in my pocket. Meeting up with one of my schoolmates, we paired off. Miklos told us he needed somebody to go and see where the Russians were, so Andy and I volunteered. (It was much later that I learned never to volunteer.) We were to approach the main street and watch for troops and vehicles. It was dark now and the street lights were off.

We went from doorway to doorway, Andy leading. A Russian stepped out of a doorway and shot Andy in the chest. As he fell I aimed the submachine gun and pressed the trigger. It seemed to take ages before the gun fired: The Russian soldier fell and I kept on firing. A young woman ran up to Andy, felt his neck and said, "He is dead." She grabbed the AK47 and Makarov pistol from the Russian. She had his blood all over her and the guns as well. Hearing the growl of an engine we ran back, the heavy spare magazine of the submachine gun banging at my side.

When we got back we cleaned the AK and the Makarov and then I gave her my submachine gun and the ammunition. I was glad to be rid of that spare magazine. She gave me the AK47 and the Makarov. Now I had a pistol in each hip pocket, so at least the pull on my pants was even. Having no spare magazine, I traded the spare Tokarev magazine for another AK magazine from a man in the building.

I went to the second floor of the building, once some kind of office, and a young man had a heavy tank machine gun lying on a table, with a short ammo belt feeding

into it. There was a girl with a rifle and three hand grenades. She unscrewed the stick handle from two of them and threaded the heads onto the third hand grenade. She explained to me, "This way it is more effective against a vehicle."

I was sleepy so I took off the overcoat and laid down with it as a blanket. The pistols and grenade were digging into me so I took them out, and finally fell asleep. That was the first night of my revolution.

ASK US NO QUESTIONS

Continued from page 45

final outcome."

"I believe that the initial confrontation between the ATF and the Branch Davidians should not have taken place, at least not as an armed confrontation between citizens and those sworn to protect citizens," he conceded. "ATF agents should never have been ordered into such a confrontation. The FBI was called in to take over a situation not of their own making, and broken almost beyond repair. The lack of coordination between the tactical team and the negotiators further exacerbated an already bad situation, and added emotional fuel to the final physical fire that consumed the Davidians....

"Mistakes were made at Waco," Van Zandt said in a notable understatement. "For all those people who had no choice but to sit on the deck of the Titanic and watch the iceberg approach, there were those in decision-making positions in the ship's wheelhouse who failed to note the warnings and decided perhaps to go through, rather than around, the iceberg. Decisions were made to confront the Davidians ... decisions which simply supported David Koresh's self-fulfilling prophecy concerning the anticipated actions of the government. We can — we must — do better. The American people expect it, and we owe it to them."

And the interest on that debt is a duty to punish — punishment such as a private citizen could certainly expect — the guilty government parties. Anything less will be a travesty of justice that invites repetition of these heinous atrocities.

—James L. Pate is SOF*'s national affairs correspondent.*

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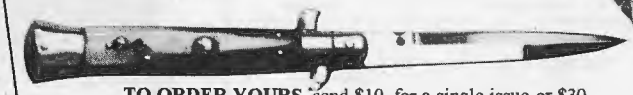

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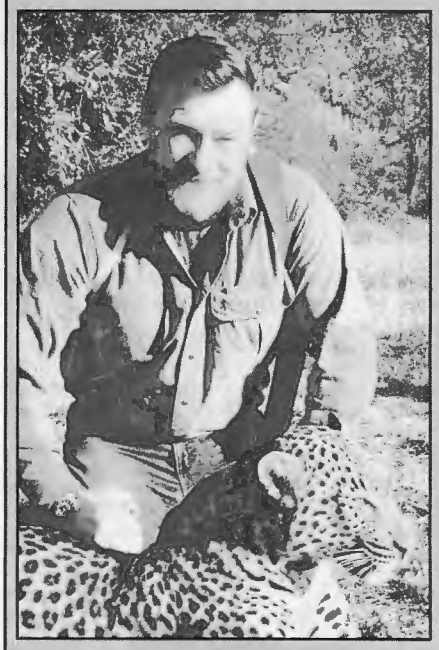

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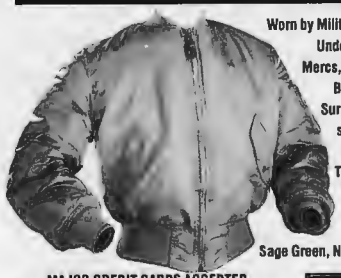

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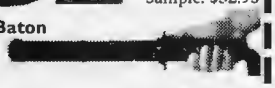

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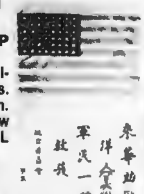

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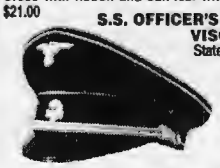

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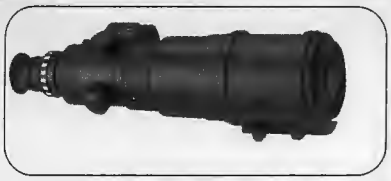

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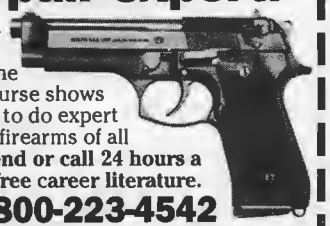

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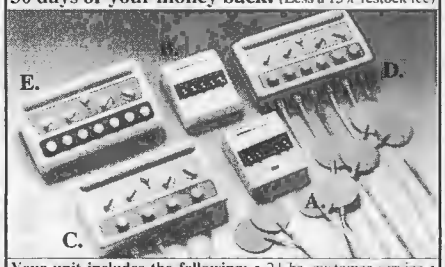

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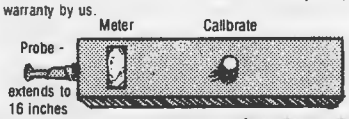

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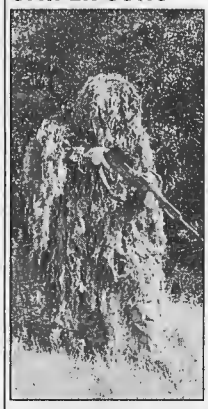

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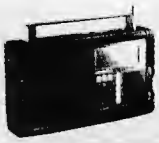

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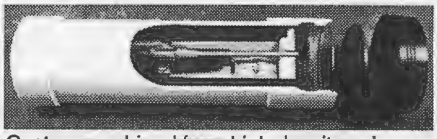

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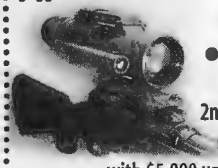

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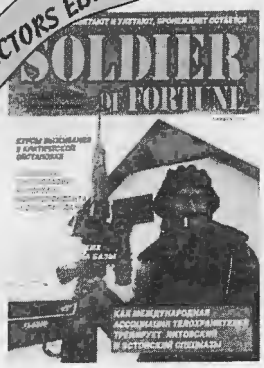

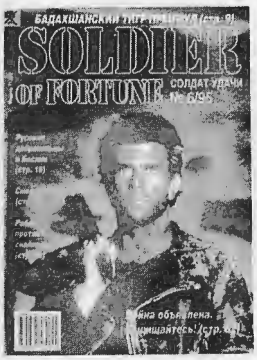

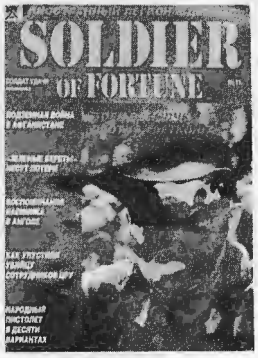

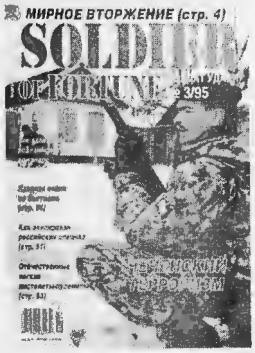

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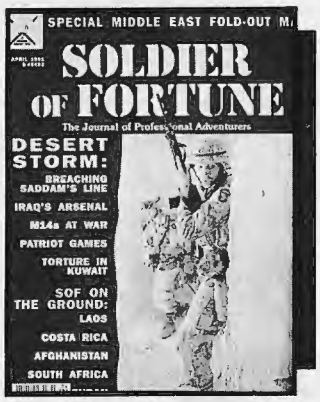

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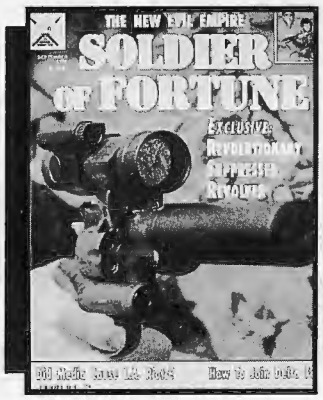

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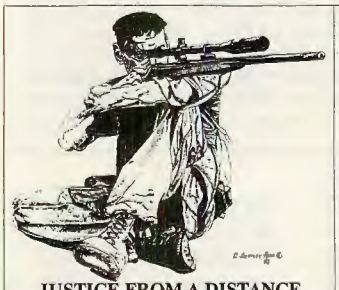

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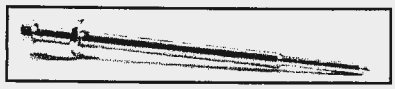

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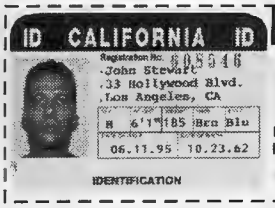

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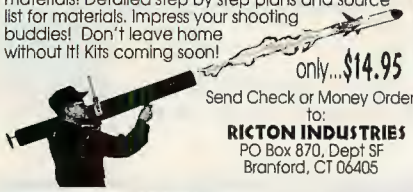

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PARTING SHOT

Clinton's Folly

by Col. David Hackworth

Colonel David Hackworth, America's most decorated living soldier and a frequent contributor to SOF, *writes a syndicated weekly column titled* "Defending America." *"Hack" doesn't pull any punches and many liberal rags won't carry his writing. If your local paper falls into that category, call the editor and let him know you'd like to see "Defending America" on the Op-Ed page. It's syndicated by King Features, 235 E. 45th St., New York, NY 10017.*

Baumholder, Germany — President Clinton addressed the soldiers of the 1st Armored Division prior to their deployment to the trenches of Bosnia.

His message fell short of the target. It wasn't the lousy weather that made his words miss their mark. Many of the gathered warriors felt they were being used as props for Clinton's commercial to win support from the American people for his latest military misadventure.

Sergeant Darrell McCoy, a rifle-squad leader, said: "There wasn't anything new. It was all recycled stuff we'd seen on CNN." Another sergeant in the same 3rd Platoon of Company B, 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry, said, "His talk seemed more designed to motivate the American public than us."

I talked to the sharp grunt platoon for several hours before and after Clinton's talk. They're the right kind of warriors with the right kind of grit to do the job, with great leadership from bottom to top. Sure they griped, but all good soldiers do. If they didn't, I'd be concerned.

What rubbed everyone the wrong way was Clinton's pledge to accept full responsibility for U.S. casualties. A sergeant remarked: "We're the ones who are going to die. His taking responsibility doesn't mean anything to me or my family."

"We're the ones who are going to die."

Leaving just before the Christmas holiday is another major complaint. McCoy added: "Why can't they wait a few days more? We've been working this mission for over three years now. Why the sudden rush?"

Most of the platoon members felt the one-year mission didn't make sense. Another sergeant winced, "The year bit is strictly politics. It's a big fairy tale."

I agree. The one-year exit plan is more tailored to election '96 than military necessity. How can peace be brought in just one year to a land that has seldom known peace? I reckon the major warring factions will go to ground while our troops are in that dangerous land, then come back fighting after they leave.

So why go at all? Perhaps Clinton should show more concern for his troops than for keeping a politically motivated promise to European leaders to put in the American team.

The soldiers of the 3rd Platoon worry about the millions of land mines in Bosnia and when their platoon will get replacements. The platoon is short nine soldiers, and that's a lot of empty foxholes for a rifle platoon, especially a mech outfit. I can't figure out why the platoon is short so many warriors, except that the Pentagon has more computer-punchers than trigger-pullers.

Why would they let a unit deploy into a possible killing field without enough riflemen? This doesn't make sense, especially since the brass have had a warning order to go to Bosnia for months.

Other worries: Right now, the cold weather equipment most of the platoon members have is old stuff that won't be up to snuff in frozen Bosnia. The same is true with their body armor. These grunts know how the new body armor saved many Ranger lives in that terrible 1993 fight in Mogadishu, and they want the same life-saving gear.

I'm always amazed at the low priority given to the grunt. He does the most dangerous and dirty work. The whole military is about getting him into the objective area to take or hold ground. Yet he's always the last guy in the goodies line.

Look at the 1996 defense budget. The Republicans have loaded it up with pork: billions of dollars for B-2 bombers, Seawolf submarines, ships and missiles that even the Pentagon doesn't want. Yet our warriors will face the mines and the sniper fire and freeze their butts off without the right stuff. I know it's always been this way, but that doesn't mean it's right!

I suspect Clinton saw the movie "The American President" and is now modeling himself after Michael Douglas instead of JFK. In the movie, Douglas, who plays the president, suddenly finds his backbone and decides to put principle over politics.

Too bad the new, seemingly steel-spined Clinton didn't stand tall over the Republicans' bloated budget and take full responsibility for getting his soldiers the right stuff rather than for risking their lives with the wrong gear on a bad mission.

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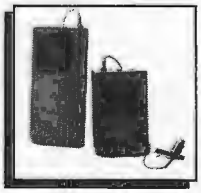

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